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THE TIMES

No. 64,465 FRIDAY OCTOBER 16 1992 45p

Decision to axe miners taken by key ministers • Judge delays closures

'Inner cabinet' shut the pits

As the government struggles to contain the surge of protests over pit closures, the economy and its European policy, even the decision-making process in cabinet has become a focus of controversy

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

A HIGH Court judge yesterday ordered British Coal not to close its pits until he rules on the mining unions' application for an injunction to halt the shutdown. The instruction came as it was disclosed that the decision to axe 31 pits with the loss of 30,000 jobs was taken without formal cabinet approval.

Yesterday's two-hour cabinet meeting was the first time all 22 ministers had discussed the closures announced on Tuesday. Government sources said that the decision had been taken by "key ministers in economic departments" and the prime minister had been "fully engaged". Other ministers were aware of what was going on, but the matter was never formally taken before the cabinet.

Under Margaret Thatcher, major decisions were routinely taken by a hand-picked group of cabinet loyalists. But the Major government has, until now, been proud of its record of having all key decisions taken by the full cabinet. John Smith, the Labour leader, said last night: "I find it both astonishing and appalling that there was no cabinet decision on proposals which are going to have such a devastating effect on our mining communities and such an adverse effect on Britain's industrial policy."

The disclosure that the closure was approved by only a few ministers came as the government faced a growing public outcry and the prospect of a backbench revolt over the proposals, and could threaten

the government's majority in a critical vote at the end of the Opposition day debate on the issue next Wednesday.

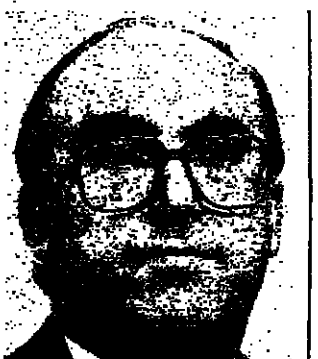
About a dozen Conservative MPs have publicly expressed disquiet over the move and others clearly share their alarm. There were indications yesterday that at least three would abstain in the vote, and Labour will take care to frame its motion calling for a reversal or moratorium on the closures in such a way as to maximise the possibility of government humiliation.

Mr Smith appealed to dissenting Tories to vote with the opposition, saying: "I think Conservative MPs who have joined in the criticism of the action of the Government have a splendid opportunity to show that their vote follows their voice." If 11 Conservatives and all opposition MPs vote against the government, it would be forced to reconsider its plans.

The government's economic problems multiplied yesterday with the publication of September jobs figures showing a 32,200 increase to a seasonally adjusted total of 2.84 million, the highest for five years. The scale of the recession was highlighted by related figures showing a record 51,000 fall in manufacturing employees in August and the lowest number of vacancies at jobcentres for a decade.

The pit closure plans have met with a wave of protest from unions, church leaders and politicians of all parties, and yesterday Mr Justice Vinelott said in the High Court that no action should be taken to implement the plans until he rules today on the miners' application for an injunction.

The National Union of Mineworkers meanwhile pulled back from holding an immediate strike ballot in the hope that it could mobilise public opinion against the government and British Coal. Speaking after a special delegate meeting in Sheffield, Arthur Scargill, the union's president, said: "We will recommend that our members take strike action, but it will only be in the event that this government continues to refuse to accept the logical arguments that have been supported by a wide breadth of public opinion throughout the country." Miners facing redundancy will stage a mass lobby of Parliament for Wednesday's debate. Yesterday's cabinet backed



I think Tory MPs who have criticised the government have a splendid opportunity to show that their vote follows their voice

the closure programme, accepting that there was no alternative to closures with vast stocks of coal building up without a buyer. However, ministers were clearly alarmed at the backlash inside and outside the ranks of their party and they agreed that much more had to be done to sell their case to the country and

Continued on page 3, col 4

Bush rebuff of Gatt concessions adds to summit woes for Major

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR was struggling last night to defend his European policy as the government's domestic difficulties mounted and threatened to overshadow today's European Community summit in Birmingham. On the eve of today's gathering, the prime minister last night held a series of meetings in Birmingham with EC leaders, trying to win them over to his demand for a declaration today of Community willingness to curb Brussels' powers.

Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, and some EC leaders declared their desire to reach an agreement that would help Mr Major in his efforts to ratify the Maastricht treaty. But there was no sign that they were ready to make substantial or concrete concessions before the Edinburgh summit in December, if at all.

Mr Major and his EC colleagues received a pre-summit blow last night when President Bush ruled out any further concessions in the

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations. The prime minister had been hoping for a breakthrough to give a boost to the British and European economies. But Mr Bush, in a letter to Mr Major and other EC leaders, said America "has done all it can" to reach a deal. He added: "We have stretched as far as possible to meet the EC's concerns."

Mr Major badly needs a firm statement of intent from the Community to help the passage of the treaty ratification bill early in the new year, and to avoid embarrassment in the Commons.

All the signs last night were that the outcome would be modest. Mr Delors declared in Brussels that the Birmingham summit would not be the moment to settle the definition of "subsidiarity", the principle of minimum interference from Brussels that Mr Major is trying to enshrine.

The prime minister will seek today to secure as strong a commitment as possible that the EC is determined to make the Maastricht treaty more acceptable to European public opinion following Danish and

French ratification difficulties. After arriving in Birmingham from a cabinet meeting, Mr Major went straight into talks with Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime minister, and Giuliano Amato, his Italian counterpart, who are seen as two of the leading opponents of plans to limit the Commission's powers. "We decided to meet them head on," a UK official said.

Later Mr Major had a working dinner with Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and was expected to hold late-night talks at his Hyatt hotel headquarters with M Delors.

British officials were continuing to dampen hopes of a big breakthrough today, suggesting Britain wanted to be judged on the outcome in Edinburgh. Mr Major, after the severe buffeting he has suffered on his European and economic policies, will hail any declaration as a significant advance. He has told colleagues of the massive difficulties confronting him in his efforts to persuade several EC partners on the surrender of centralised powers. Mr Major's colleagues will aim to agree to a face-saving formula

preventing the summit being seen as a failure. M Delors said yesterday he hoped the summit would help Mr Major out of his political difficulties.

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Rail fares will rise by up to 9.5%

By MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

COMMUTERS on British Rail and London Transport face a bleak new year with fare increases of up to 9.5 per cent.

British Rail said yesterday that declining demand for rail travel, the result of recession, had led to a loss of income which could be recovered only by putting up fares. With little prospect of any rise in subsidy, extra revenue was needed to cover the cost of increased safety spending and pay for modernisation schemes. John Nelson, managing director of Network SouthEast, said that fewer jobs in London had meant fewer commuters. Income had fallen by £80 million in the past two years and could not be made up by property sales.

Last night the central transport consultative committee, the national passenger watchdog, described the increases as deplorable. Average increases of 7.5 per cent on season tickets, and some of 9.5 per cent, amounted to exploitation of a monopoly position, it said. InterCity and Network SouthEast had failed to meet their quality targets in 1991-92, and a decision to raise fares by twice the rate of inflation was "unreasonable".

Among those worst affected by the increases will be the long-distance commuters who until now have put up with long hours of travelling and high season-ticket costs for the sake of lower property prices, but will find that it no longer makes economic sense. Helen Smith, a civil servant who makes a daily 100-minute journey from Doncaster to King's Cross, said that she would be leaving her job when her £5,104 ticket ran out. "It's really not worth it any more."

Fares on London Transport Underground and bus services will go up by an average of 8.5 per cent.

Sterling falls to DM2.46

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

STERLING fell 3.5 pence against the mark yesterday to close at DM2.4657. It was weighed down by the decision to close 31 pits and the rise in unemployment.

The pound was also dragged down by the Bundesbank council's decision to leave German lending rates unchanged. There was concern that today's EC summit in Birmingham could boost the view that a multi-tier monetary union is likely. Recession fears, page 21
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British soldiers flown out to Bosnia with no time limit set

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE first of 2,400 British troops bound for Bosnia left Germany yesterday on American C130 transport planes. Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, said that they would be fully operational by November 13.

Announcing details of the timetable for troop deployment, Mr Rifkind said the 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment, the core of the battle group which will escort food convoys to Bosnia, would serve for six months and be replaced by another battalion for a further six months.

No commitment has been made beyond 12 months, but Mr Rifkind left open the possibility that British troops might stay longer. This represented a change of mind by the government, which had

previously decided to set a time limit. Mr Rifkind said: "I believe public opinion realises this is an essential humanitarian task which our forces should be undertaking. It will call for skilled and tactical handling on the ground, which the army is well experienced in providing." The troops would be given the resources they needed and the means to look after themselves, he said.

It was also announced yesterday that Brigadier Andrew Cumming, 45, who has served in Germany, Libya and Canada, had been appointed commander of British forces in Bosnia and Croatia. Brigadier Cumming flew to Split yesterday with the first 35 troops, several vehicles and supplies on board five C130 transport

Rifkind timetable, page 11
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Battle over water prices

North West Water has challenged an attempt by Ian Byatt, the director-general of water services, to force it to reduce price increases by 1.5 per cent next year.

The proposed cut would claim for consumers the benefit of lower construction costs in the investment programme. But Southern Water has emerged from the exercise with higher price rises than scheduled. Page 23

Rostov serial killer to die

A Rostov court room erupted in wild applause yesterday when the world's worst serial killer, Andrei Chikatilo, was sentenced to die with a bullet in the back of the neck. Chikatilo murdered at least 52 people. As he was sentenced, he shouted at the judge: "You're a crook, you're a crook." Page 11

Top breeder plans one-day racing strike

BILL GREDDLEY, a leading owner-breeder, is planning a one-day racing strike to protest at the government's inaction over the sport's financial crisis.

Mr Gredley, 59, who has enjoyed classic success this year with User Friendly in the Oaks and St Leger, aims to persuade fellow owners to stage a boycott on a Monday or Tuesday before the turf flat season ends on November 9. The move would wipe out about £10 million in betting turnover, costing the government £775,000 in duty and bookmakers £250,000 profit. Low prize money and high VAT rates, compared with Europe's other leading racing nations, threaten to destroy Britain's bloodstock industry and the 10,000 jobs within it.

Protest plan, page 40

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High Court rules on closure of four mines

By PATRICIA TEHAN

A DECISION over whether four coal mines will close as planned today with the loss of 3,700 jobs will be made by the High Court this afternoon.

An 11th-hour attempt to keep the pits open was adjourned last night. The four pits are among 31 scheduled for closure by next March with the loss of 30,000 jobs. The closures would leave only 19 working pits and take British Coal's workforce down to 23,000.

The National Union of Mineworkers and the pit deputies' union Nacods sought an emergency High Court injunction to stop today's scheduled close-down of four named pits, Markham Main in South Yorkshire, Trentham in Staffordshire, and Cotgrave and Silverhill in Nottingham-

vowed to stay 408 metres below ground at Silverhill colliery, near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. In protest at what he described as "the wholesale destruction of the mining industry".

He started his one-man protest at 2pm yesterday after a final visit to the pit where he used to work. He refused to leave the underground face and is being kept going with a supply of sandwiches, food and drinks.

Mr Lynk last night issued a statement explaining why he made the decision to protest in such a dramatic way. He passed a hand-scratched note to union chiefs saying: "I am protesting against the wholesale destruction of the mining industry."

"A lack of a true understanding of the true competitive position of British Coal, the way that the deed has been done and the way the men have been treated. And that private firms are being employed by British Coal whilst our own men are being made redundant. I am calling for a stop on all pit closures pending a parliamentary enquiry."

Mr Sage, UDM branch secretary at Silverhill, said: "I asked him how long he was going to stay there and he said: 'Until somebody does something.' He feels that the men think that he has let them down. He has to live with these men and if the men suffer, he says, so will he."

In the High Court British Coal was accused of breaking English and European law by failing to consult miners and their unions over the massive pit closures.

John Hendy QC, for the unions, told Mr Justice Vinelott their case was "short and simple". They claimed that British Coal was in breach of colliery review procedures, the 1975 Employment Protection Act and European law directives which required consultation with employees and their trade union representatives. British Coal had "a clear duty" to do this.



Foreign coal: a Russian ship, the Bansak, moored at Liverpool's Gladstone Dock yesterday after unloading its cargo of imported coal

Aid depends on backing for Delors budget plan

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission said yesterday that more EC money could be available for Britain's devastated coalfield communities after 1994, but only if the huge budget increases proposed by Jacques Delors, the Commission president, are approved by member states.

That prospect could prove hugely embarrassing for the British presidency of the EC, which has fought M Delors's ambitious spending proposals. The sight of the government in effect battling against an aid package for the colliery areas whose cost would be spread over all EC taxpayers could provide the Labour party with unlimited political capital.

M Delors wants the EC budget raised to about £60.9 billion by 1997, from its present level of £46.2 billion. Member states' contributions would rise from their present ceiling of 1.2 per cent of gross domestic product to around 1.37 per cent, and regional spending the area that coal-field funds come from —

would be doubled. But the government has argued that 1.2 per cent should remain the upper limit, and its continued resistance would scupper the Delors plan.

The so-called "Delors Two" budget proposals will not be discussed in Birmingham today but will be a central topic at the Edinburgh summit in December. A spokeswoman for Bruce Millan, the European commissioner for regional policy and a former Labour minister, said: "What Britain gets in terms of aid will depend very much on what happens at the summit."

Mr Millan's cabinet is furious at suggestions by London that Brussels is being harsh on the coalfields. They point out that the £140 million of EC cash Britain has received for the mining areas was more than half the total available to the end of the year, and that Michael Heseltine, the president of the board of trade,

knew in June that the EC kitty was empty.

Sources close to Mr Millan yesterday acknowledged that the British presidency of the EC had dug itself into a hole on the issue. "They have a serious contradiction," one aide said. "They are busy fighting the Delors Two package and at the same time complaining to us that they're not getting enough money. They can't have it both ways."

The sources were deeply critical of British Coal's handling of the cuts. The company had hinted to Brussels a year and a half ago that there would be "substantial redundancies" in the industry, but refused to give Mr Millan details. Mr Millan needed these so he and his team could begin negotiations with other member states to clear an increase in the £140 million Britain had been allotted for the period to 1993. The Millan aide said: "If British Coal had gone public about this they could have received more money."

Birmingham summit, page 9

Lesson from abroad on cutting industry

By ANATOLE LIEVEN IN BONN

OVER the next decade the German coal industry will undergo a similar reduction to that of Britain. Many coal workers fear, and some ecologists hope, that it will disappear altogether.

However that process, at least in the west, is considerably less brutal than in Britain. In parts of the east the steep decline of the industry is putting intense strain on the social fabric.

German coal is 70 per cent more expensive than British and almost three times the world market price. The difference has been made up by massive subsidies of up to DM10 billion a year. Each job in the mines costs the taxpayer DM70,000. Hard coal provides 17 per cent of Germany's energy needs and Lignite (brown coal) 6 per cent.

West Germany saw a steep reduction in employment over the decades and a slower reduction in production. From 600,000 miners in the early 1950s the number has shrunk to 135,000 (plus 107,000 in the former East Germany). By

1997 the EC Commission intends to end all national subsidies to coal industries and bring prices into line at the EC average of DM200 per ton. The economics minister Jürgen Möllemann, a bitter enemy of coal subsidies, nonetheless protested that that would kill off the German hard coal industry by 2002. Herr Möllemann and the

industry have agreed to reduce hard coal production from 70,000 to 50,000 tonnes by the end of the decade. That would indirectly lead to the loss of between 30,000 and 100,000 jobs. In the 1970s and 1980s reductions were achieved with barely a worker being put on the dole.

In the east the situation is much worse. Businesses are deterred from buying into the inefficient mines by the threat of tough ecological controls. By 2000 it is envisaged that fewer than a quarter of miners in the east will be in the industry.

Scargill puts fate of miners in public's hands

By PAUL WILKINSON

ARTHUR Scargill, the miners' union president, yesterday put the fate of 30,000 sacked pit workers into the hands of the public with an appeal for mass protests against British Coal's announced closure of 31 collieries.

A special delegates conference of the National Union of Mineworkers at its Sheffield headquarters yesterday also voted to ballot members on strike action, but only as a last resort if its public awareness campaign failed. Mr Scargill said the union wanted to capitalise on the swell of public outrage at what he called "government genocide".

However, their decision to stall the ballot indicates the unspoken acknowledgment within the union that, unlike 1984, there is no stomach for a fight. Significantly, there were no lobbying miners in the crowd outside the meeting

and the only calls for action at the session came from political activists supporting extremist left-wing groups.

Mr Scargill deflected questions on the lack of immediate industrial action by saying they would not be stamped by British Coal or the government into precipitate action. "Our members do not want to strike, but we will be forced to consider it if all else fails," he said. Mr Scargill refused to be drawn on how long his executive would wait to assess the effect of the public campaign before calling the ballot.

In a separate strand of their campaign yesterday, lawyers for the NUM were sent into the High Court to seek an injunction suspending British Coal's planned closure today of the first six pits. The union claimed that British Coal had not complied with employment law in having a 90-day consultation period with the sacked men's union.

Tomorrow, there will be a special meeting at the TUC with other unions involved in the coal industry to seek their support. Mr Scargill estimated that up to 100,000 other jobs will go in associated areas such as transport, power generation and the railways if all the closures go ahead.

The NUM executive is to meet John Smith, the Labour leader, at Westminster next Tuesday. There will be a mass lobby of parliament the day after. The following week, Mr Scargill is to meet Labour Euro-MPs and representatives of Socialist parties from other European Community countries in an effort to have the issue raised in the European Parliament.

"We are satisfied that there is an unanswerable case that British coal is the cheapest in the world. It is significant that a number of Conservative MPs support not the NUM, but the case for coal. They see the logic of cheap UK coal against expensive nuclear power or gas alternatives."

Scargill rallying call

Scargill rallying call

Eggar insists that sell-off goes ahead

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE energy minister, Tim Eggar, yesterday added fuel to the fiery debate over the decision to close 31 collieries with a firm restatement of the government's plans to introduce legislation for the privatisation of British Coal in November.

He told delegates at a UK Coal '92 conference in London yesterday that the bill would be introduced in late November or early December. He said the bill was not expected to receive final approval until July next year at the earliest. No decision had been made on the final shape of the privatisation.

Andrew Horsler, British Coal's director general of marketing, said at the same conference that gas-fired power stations would generate electricity more expensively than if they continued to burn coal.

"British Coal could offer the electricity consumer a better deal," he said. "This argument is accepted by most independent commentators and by many within the electricity industry."

He said: "This week's events have pointed out even more starkly the contrast between the subsidised, protected mar-

ket in Germany and the unprotected market in this country — indeed, a market tilted against coal."

Options for privatisation include selling British Coal as one unit or splitting it up. The trade and industry department is evaluating options, including a management buyout, a trade sale and a share issue.

The Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM), formed by the men who broke away from the National Union of Mineworkers during the 1984 coal miners' strike, is leading a consortium interested in a buyout. The UDM is being advised by merchant bankers at Kleinwort Benson.

The consortium includes East Midlands Electricity; Sir David Whyte, former National Freight deputy chairman; Dickson Malbon, an energy minister in the last Labour government; and George Guise, former director of Consolidated Goldfields and adviser to Baroness Thatcher when she was prime minister.

Lord Hanson has also declared himself interested in the privatisation.

Museum plan gives jobs hope

By ALISON ROBERTS
ACTS REPORTER

PLANS for a huge museum complex to be built on a 300-acre site once dominated by the Cadely and Denaby Main collieries in South Yorkshire were launched yesterday and hailed as a blueprint for the regeneration of areas hit by pit closure.

The Earth Centre, to be built in the Dearne Valley at a cost of £30 million, will provide a showcase for sustainable industry and future technologies. It is hoped that many of the area's 10,000 miners made redundant in the mid-eighties will be employed in the construction and servicing of the 16 exhibition centres and galleries.

The project, to be funded by three local authorities, private business and government agencies, aims to restore the natural environment left desolate by the closures. The mines have been filled in, the land flattened and a long process of chemical decontamination is nearing completion.



Scargill rallying call

Clean coal 'blocked' by lack of funds

By NICK NUTTALL AND NIGEL HAWKES

PIONEERING British technology that could have made coal-fired power stations as attractive as gas-fired ones might have been available this year if government funds had been more forthcoming, energy experts said yesterday.

The technology, called fluidised bed combustion, and a topping cycle is claimed to be 20 per cent more efficient than conventional coal-powered stations. British Coal, which has developed the technology at Grimthorpe, is waiting for the trade and industry department to decide whether to give the £150 million needed to commercialise the

work. Michael Clark, former chairman of the energy select committee and Tory MP for Rochford, said, however, that he feared this week's developments spelt the project's end.

"We are making the mis-

take, as we all too often have in this country, of not taking our research through to development... if we had funded this in a more vigorous way we might now be building new coal-fired stations rather than gas," he said.

Ian Fells, professor of energy conversion at New-

castle University, said other European countries were enthusiastically backing clean coal technologies. Last month at the World Energy Congress in Madrid, delegates concluded that coal, which accounts for 42 per cent of world energy needs, would become more important with the arrival of clean technologies.

"We are going to need our coal and we won't be able to buy cheap stuff on world markets then," said Professor Fells. The history of clean coal research in Britain was littered with indecision, he said.

Fluidised bed systems, which mix coal with other

substances to improve burning efficiencies and reduce sulphur emissions, were first developed by a British researcher with the Central Electricity Generating Board in the 1960s, but they were abandoned. "The result is you can buy fluidised bed systems from the Germans, the Swedes and Americans but not from us," Professor Fells said.

Eric Garbett, who specialises in clean coal technologies at Sheffield University, said that coal might produce less carbon dioxide than gas but it also gave off important amounts of water vapour, a powerful global warming gas.

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Japan may start to pull business out of Britain

FROM JOANNA PYTMAN AND MARTIN FLETCHER

A PICTURE of enduringly grim economic conditions in Britain has begun to take hold in Tokyo boardrooms. Japan's famously risk-averse businessmen are wondering whether they would be wise to consider turning their attentions elsewhere in Europe.

Shigeki Morinobu, an official at the ministry of finance's international finance division, said: "Now that we can clearly see the development of a two-speed approach to European integration, we only hope that Britain will not be left behind."

Britain seems to have been in severe recession for at least two years now and unfortunately we in Tokyo can see no signs of improvement.

INVESTORS

American investors are taking the opposite view. Analysts there are not alarmed by Britain's temporary withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism and indeed may be encouraged.

Most Japanese who are required to monitor European affairs see John Major's government as fairly stable, but believe that the British economy is in worse straits than that of its neighbours.

Japan is suffering a severe economic slowdown of its own and most Japanese are careful to put their views of the British economy in perspective. They are well aware of economic problems in most European countries and have watched the emerging race relations problems of France and Germany with growing unease.

But asked to select the most robust economy in Europe, most Japanese would point to Germany. They are apt to think long-term and see the German economy as an unsalubly dominant force in Europe ten years hence. Several Japanese multinationals have already begun to shift their attentions from Britain to Germany.

American business sees the turmoil of the last month as a "blip", said Amanda Tucker, manager of EC affairs at the US Council for International Investment. Investors would be concerned if they thought the withdrawal were permanent, or that Britain and the EC were likely to go separate ways, but they were unlikely to be alarmed.

Lawrence Veit, manager and international economist at Brown Brothers Harriman, a New York private investment company, said the events of the past month "make Britain a better place to invest". By keeping the pound strong in compliance with ERM dictates Britain had been "trying to compete in the world economy with one arm tied behind its back". The European single market was not threatened and the exchange-rate readjustments would boost exports.

A British trade official in Washington said "I have not noticed worry about the short-term problems of the past weeks". Britain's overall commitment to Europe and the single market was not being questioned.



A helping hand: Michael Caine with Ricky, 4, left, and Nathan, 7, sons of Lennica Prentice, to whom he presented a Prince's Youth Business Trust award yesterday. The award, which is sponsored by Thomson Directories, will give £1,000 towards advertising (Nicholas Scott writes). Mrs Prentice, a children's clothes designer from Sydenham, London, said the recession had made business much tougher. "I am finding it much harder to sell to shops. I hope I can pull through," she said. Mr Caine, who will become a small businessman himself next month when he opens a restaurant in Chelsea Harbour, west London, said companies should make the most of the opportu-

ties offered by the recession. "There are so many cheap properties. At least I have the courage of my convictions. It's either that or I'm in for a rough time," he said. Some of the award winners said that while the government may trumpet its achievements in trimming Britain's bloated bureaucracy, they still faced crippling red tape. The employment department could take years to agree to loans and local authorities often knew little about setting up businesses.

Why the shrewd man has to turn into action man

Peter Riddell

The most dangerous predicament for any government is to appear helpless and drift in face of a deteriorating economy. That is what undermined the authority of the Heath government during the miners' strikes of the early 1970s, the Callaghan government in 1978-79 and the Thatcher government for a few months in the summer of 1981. It now threatens the Major government just six months after its re-election.

The storms of the past five weeks over sterling's withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism, the Maastricht treaty and, now, over pit closures and unemployment have left the government increasingly isolated. Ministers' familiar pleadings about a world recession and reducing inflation not only make expressions of concern about the plight of the redundant sound hollow but also appear out of touch with the public mood, not least of their own supporters.

No one who knows Gillian Shepherd can have doubted the sincerity of her comments on radio and television yesterday about the latest rise in unemployment, but it sounded unconvincing. John Major and his colleagues do not appear to be rising to what the public, and many Tory MPs, regard as the gravity of the current situation.

The government, of course, has answers. Mr Major has a frequently repeated statement about how no one can have imagined at the time of the election what would subsequently go wrong, the Danish vote on Maastricht, President Mitterrand's decision to hold a referendum, the difficulties resulting from German unification, the continuing American recession and fall in the dollar, the drop in industrial output in Japan and unhelpful leaks from the Bundesbank in the first half of September.

But that is not enough. Last spring, ministers forecast that the recovery would start once the cloud of the

election was out of the way. But it has not. The situation has clearly changed for the worse.

There is no easy way out, the government intones. It would be wrong to kick-start the economy or to take risks with inflation by allowing too sharp a fall in the pound. What is needed is the restoration of consumer confidence and a reduction in interest rates, which will happen in time. That requires a tight fiscal policy, hence the current tough public spending round.

But appeals to patience are wearing thin. When hopes of recovery have been deferred yet again, and previously sound businesses are failing, the public expects more. It expects the government to have a plan, to be seen to meet the challenge. Unless supported by real policy changes, such activity

The public expects more. It expects the government to be seen to meet the challenge.

can be dismissed as a mere presentational device to buy time before recovery resumes. But creating and stimulating hope is an essential part of successful leadership.

Even within its own objectives of constraining inflation and, presumably, returning to the ERM, there is scope for government action, for ensuring that the measures in the autumn statement do not penalise industry, preferably boost capital investment and are seen as aiding recovery. The government is currently in the worst of all worlds, unable to say much until spending decisions are taken and announced early next month.

Loyal Tory MPs say that the present storm can be regarded as merely an unusually severe but essentially temporary period of turbulence, from which the gov-

ernment has plenty of time to recover by the next election. On that view, it makes sense to ensure that unpleasant and difficult decisions — on pit closures, higher rail fares, the council tax, cutbacks in spending programmes — come now with an election still up to four and a half years away. It does not matter how unpopular the government is now, how many local council seats and parliamentary by-elections the Tories lose in the next couple of years, provided that the economy is recovering by 1994-95.

The Tories have had the chance to recover and redeem themselves with the electorate three times since 1979, but this time the trick may not work. What the government, and the country, are now paying for are the errors of the second half of the 1980s, the results not just of the battle over exchange rate and interest rate policy between Nigel Lawson and Margaret Thatcher but also of the deregulation of financial markets and of the clumsy privatisations of public utilities like electricity, gas and water.

Mr Major was in many ways the ideal prime minister to manage the transition from the Thatcher era, a leader who can conciliate and unify. But in a crisis such an approach can appear ineffective. When Baroness Thatcher was most under fire in the early 1980s, she at least had the anchor of her convictions. She overcame public doubts with her certainty that the sacrifices would all be worthwhile. Mr Major lacks that anchor and has to rely on his reputation for political shrewdness. But that reputation is now under challenge since even normally loyal Tories argue that the government has been insensitive and lacked political acumen in its handling of pit closures and the recession.

To avoid the fate of an Anthony Eden, Mr Major not only has to take a grip over economic policy, but to be seen delivering the smack of firm government.

Service sector battered by recession

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

THE South-East, East Anglia and the South-West suffered the worst job losses in September as the service sector continued to take a hammering from the recession. But the huge cuts announced in the coal industry this week will produce a dramatically changed picture over the next few months.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in East Anglia showed the biggest rise, reaching 8 per cent, up almost two percentage points on the previous month, with 80,700 on the dole.

East Anglian workers feed into the service industries in the South-East. The rate in the South-East was 1.8 per cent, up 0.7 percentage points higher, up to 9.7 per cent of the total workforce, a total of 885,300 unemployed, in Greater

REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

London the rate was 11 per cent of the workforce, that is 444,600 on the dole. In the South-West 9.5 per cent of the workforce is unemployed, up 1.5 percentage points on the previous month, to 216,700 people.

Helen Dunn, economist at Lehman Brothers in London, said that the rise in the area was due to light industry cutting back its workforce.

Only Northern Ireland showed a fall in the rate of unemployment, down marginally to 14.8 per cent of the workforce, or 108,100 people. The South-East, East Anglia and the South-West have suffered higher rises in unemployment throughout the recession. David Fell, principal economist at the financial consultants Business Stra-

ties, said that the fall in unemployment in Northern Ireland was probably caused by developments in the public sector, which employs more than a third of workers in the province.

He predicted "double-digit unemployment virtually everywhere by the mid 1990s" and said unemployment would stay at these high levels for most of the decade. Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, described the unemployment figures as "a catalogue of horror for our nation".

He said: "These follow tens of thousands of redundancies throughout British industry since the summer. Every day brings further disastrous news for families in every region

and every industry. Britain is being wrecked and the lives of millions of our citizens are being wrecked by this do-nothing government."

Mr Morris called on the Trades Union Congress to set up a national commission for full employment and "put the right of everyone to a job back on top of our national economic agenda".

Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, said: "At a time when job losses are being announced by the thousand, we scarcely need these figures to tell us that recession has turned into slump and that we now face a jobs crisis unknown in modern times."

"The government would be foolish in the extreme to underestimate the depth of public anger at the destruction their policies are wreaking."

Post-war record, page 21

MPs may defy Tory whips on coal vote

WIDESPREAD Tory dissent surfaced last night over the government's handling of the 31 pit closures, with backbench MPs warning that they may defy whips in next week's Commons debate on the coal industry (Arthur Leathley writes).

Many MPs have been astonished by the number and ferocity of complaints from Tory constituency activists, some of whom have vowed to withdraw financial support for the party in protest at the scale and speed of the job cuts.

Several MPs admitted last night they were wavering in their support for the government on the issue. Others are anxiously awaiting the precise wording of Labour's Commons motion in next week's Opposition day debate.

Among those likely to abstain are Nicholas Winterton, MP for Macclesfield, and his wife, Ann, MP for Congleton. Mr Winterton said last night: "Unless the government changes its mind over these closures, I could not support it."

debate. Jim Pawsey, MP for Rugby and Kenilworth, said: "I would have to see what the motion was before deciding how to vote. We are involved in fighting the wrong war and we are losing sight of the price being paid by small businesses and the public. The price is just too high."

Sir Teddy Taylor, Tory MP for Southend East, said: "To tell workers on a Wednesday that their jobs will be lost on Monday and that if they complain their redundancy payments could be cut seems to represent the worst possible features of Victorian employers."

Robert Adley, chairman of the all-party transport select committee, accused the government of allowing political dogma to dictate what governments do to essential industries and called the closures a legacy of Thatcherism. Mr Adley, MP for Christchurch, branded the closures as "another legacy of Thatcherism".

Other senior Tories, including Winston Churchill, Sir John Hannam and Sir Anthony Durant, have publicly criticised the government's action over the closures.

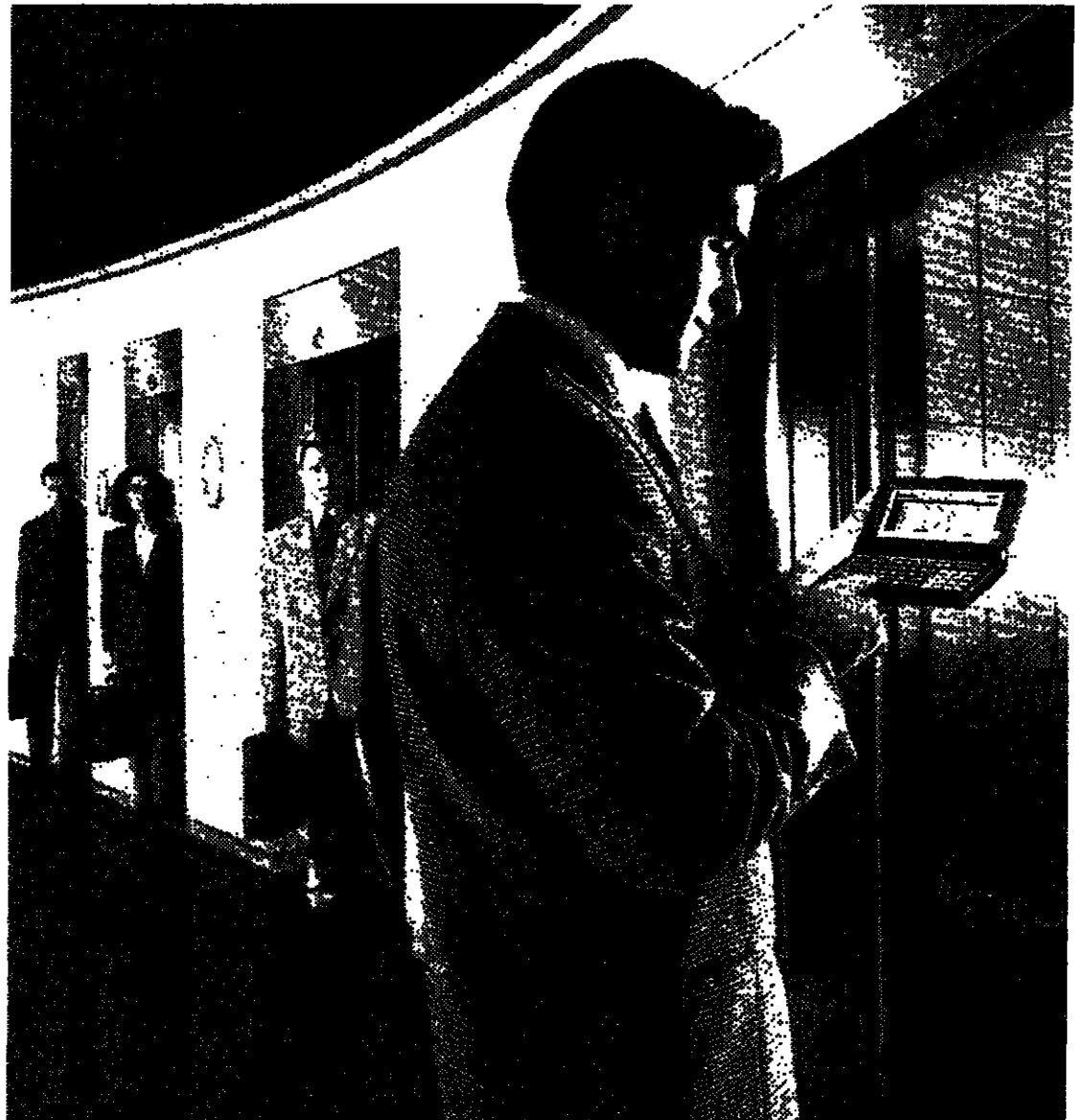
Handful of ministers axed pits

Continued from page 1 their backbenchers. Michael Heseltine, president of the Board of Trade, acknowledged last night that the government had work to do in heading off a backbench revolt. Next Monday when the Commons returned, ministers would be talking to backbenchers and "putting the facts before them". He added: "In the end they will see the logic of what has happened."

Nicholas and Ann Winterton said they would abstain. William Cash said he would make up his mind on the day. Other senior Tories, including Winston Churchill, Sir John Hannam, James Pawsey, Sir Teddy Taylor and Sir Anthony Durant, have openly condemned the closures. Sir Teddy said that the government was losing public sympathy and that they were exhibiting the worst features of Victorian employers.

Court ruling, page 2
Japanese threat, page 3
Cecil Parkinson, page 16
Leading article and letters, page 17
Jobless record, page 21

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The secret confession of John Major



AS he settles down with his dispatch boxes at Downing Street, John Major is often haunted by a distracting fantasy, he discloses in *The Times* Weekend section tomorrow.

"I think how tempting it is to leave affairs of state behind: even the dreariest of 0-0 draws on a wet afternoon can seem attractive in comparison to those red boxes," he writes. Read about his passion for Chelsea FC tomorrow.

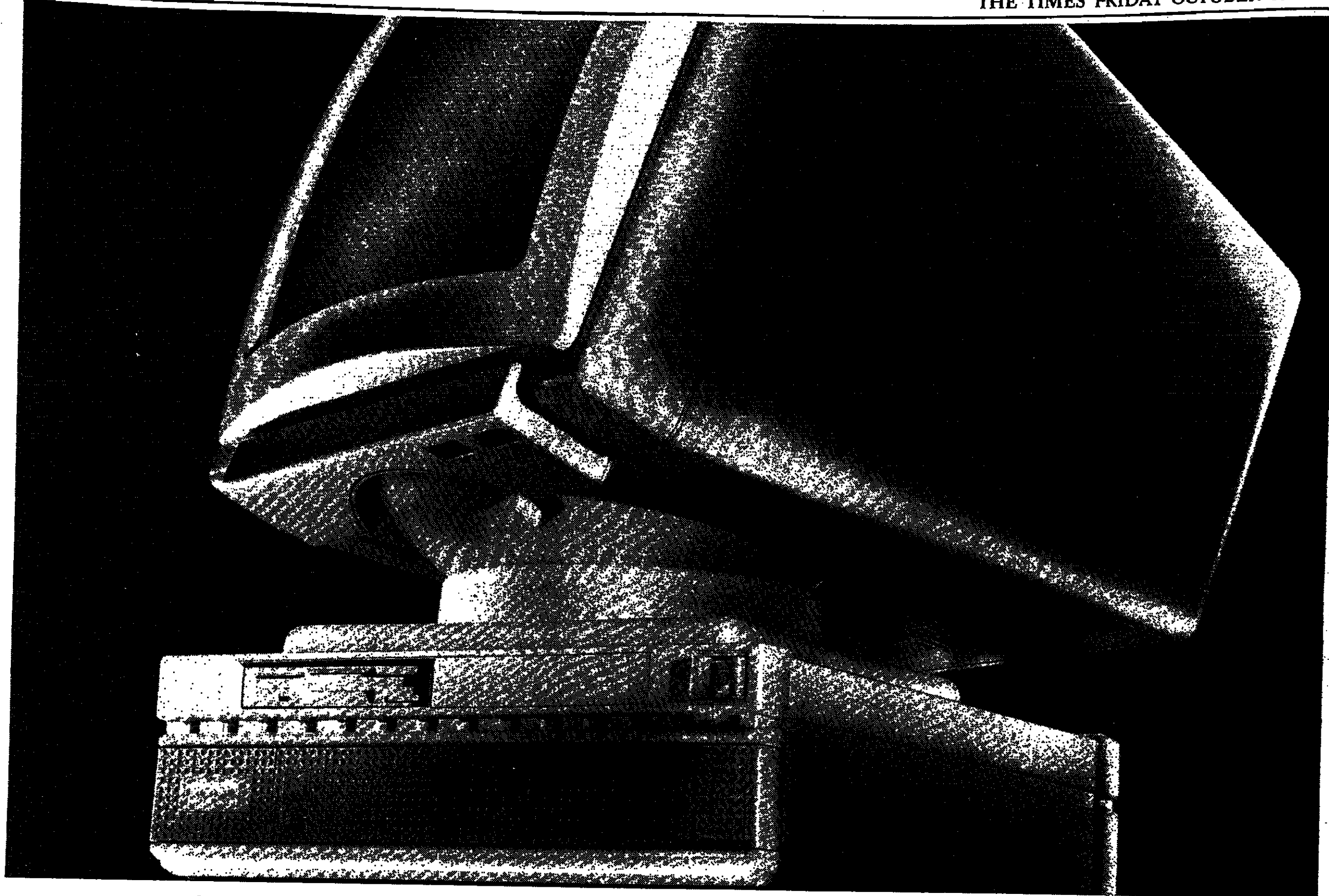
John Foster, the team leader, moving," Mr Foster said.

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15

Judges cut Gorman libel payout by two-thirds

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

LABEL damages for the Tory MP Teresa Gorman were slashed by the Court of Appeal yesterday when it ruled that she was not entitled to be presented to the jury as a vulnerable, sensitive and deeply wounded woman.

The judges said that the £150,000 awarded by a jury last year over a mock press release purporting to be written by the Billerica MP was "excessive and extravagant". They cut the amount to £50,000. Lord Justice Russell said that Mrs Gorman was not entitled to be presented as a "vulnerable or sensitive woman deeply wounded by the mock press release".

Anthony Mudd, the Essex businessman who was responsible for the document, circulated to 100 constituency party members, said that he was delighted with the cut in damages. He has already paid £50,000 of the award. The case was a storm in a tea cup, he said.

His lawyers said that the decision was the first of its kind under rules introduced in February 1991, which allow

appeal court judges to change libel damages rather than order a re-trial. The only previous reduction, in which a £600,000 award to the Yorkshire Ripper's wife Sonia Sundcliffe against *Private Eye* was cut to £60,000, was by agreement of the parties.

Lord Justice Neill, sitting with Lords Justices Russell and Rose, said that the libel action between Mrs Gorman and Mr Mudd followed friction between them over the allocation of sponsored dinners at the House of Commons for members of the constituency Conservative businessmen's club headed by Mr Mudd.

The mock press release, which Mrs Gorman had said had been inspired by Mr Mudd's dislike of her, included phrases purporting to come from her which she complained had reeked of malice. Mrs Gorman complained that the document branded her a vain woman who did not like being number two and accused her of opposing Mr Mudd's association out of personal spite and vanity, even though her opposition harmed constituency party interests.

The appeal court rejected Mr Mudd's argument that the trial judge, Mr Justice Drake, had wrongly directed the jury and that there should have been no finding of libel. The court allowed his appeal against the size of the award. Mr Mudd had denied libel, saying that the press release was true and that he had a social duty to publish it.

A spokesman for Mrs Gorman said last night that she would be making a statement later.



Gorman: "not entitled to wounded portrayal"

Pupils face algebra test at seven

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SEVEN-year-olds are to sit tests in algebra and physics, as well as spelling, the government announced yesterday.

From next summer, different parts of the national curriculum will be assessed each year. Although spelling tests will become a permanent feature of the tests, physics and algebra will be replaced by other topics in 1994.

Baroness Blatch, education minister, said that the tests, proposed by the School Examinations and Assessment Council, would consolidate improvements made over the past two years. Reading, writing, handwriting and arithmetic would be at the centre of the new programme.

Teachers' unions said that the third successive year of changes would bring more classroom disruption. The Mathematical Association said that elementary algebra was suitable for seven-year-olds, but the Association for Science Education was doubtful about the inclusion of physics.

Tory peer declared bankrupt

By LIN JENKINS

LORD Beaverbrook, who raised £38 million towards John Major's successful election campaign while treasurer of the Conservative party, has opted to declare himself a bankrupt after failing to reach a settlement with his creditors.

The grandson of the former press baron has blamed ill-timed investments for his financial misfortune. He has told friends that his high profile, coupled with publicity given to his predicament, has made it impossible for him to reach a settlement by the November 9 deadline set by an interim order under the Insolvency Act 1986.

Since his offer has been rejected Lord Beaverbrook has decided to declare himself voluntarily bankrupt. He claims, however, that he is not bust and that he could have paid his debts under an individual voluntary arrangement. His three main creditors are Coutts & Co and the Royal Bank of Scotland, both owed £1.5 million, and Barclays, to whom he owes £350,000.

Speed trap cameras turn a blind eye

By KATE ALDERSON

THE government launched a scheme yesterday to crack down on speeding drivers by installing the first of 21 surveillance cameras in London, but admitted most were dummies.

At 21 road accident "black spots" in west London and on the A1 in north London signs will warn motorists that speed surveillance cameras are operating. However, there are only three in operation — the other 18 camera boxes will be empty.

The Department of Transport initiated the scheme with the Metropolitan police to deter speeding drivers and hopes that signs warning of cameras will curb the offence. They hope to extend the scheme throughout the country.

The three cameras will be rotated between the 21 camera boxes, so motorists will never know which box is photographing their speed and number plate.

All camera boxes will flash if a motorist exceeds a certain speed limit.

Since the Road Traffic Act became law in July, police can prosecute speeding motorists on the basis of photographs alone. Sets of electronic sensors measure the time a vehicle takes to travel between them, takes two photographs, and records the registration number.

The cameras will pick up all number plates, including reflective plates bought by some people in the mistaken belief that they reflect the cameras.

The scheme has cost £360,000. Police estimate the cost of a serious accident can be £600,000. Two or three days after the offence, a motorist will be sent a £40 fixed penalty notice. Failure to pay could result in a maximum penalty of £1,000, discretionary qualification or three penalty points.



Taking a shine: a London Victorian shoeblack receiving his hard-earned penny in 1900 and, above right, his successors back on the streets of Covent Garden yesterday charging the more princely sum of £1.50. The original shoeshine boys, from the capital's "ragged schools", were set up by Lord Shaftesbury. The new shoeshine boys and girls, dressed in Victorian "city reds", will donate part of their fee to the NSPCC

Jail chief takes in ex-prisoner

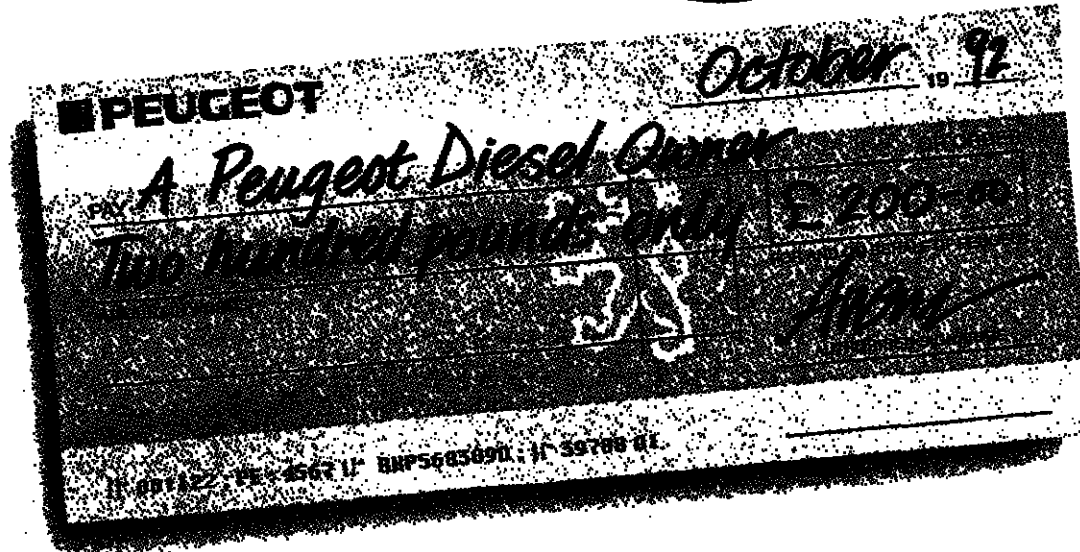
THE governor of Parkhurst top-security jail on the Isle of Wight is giving a home to a Yugoslav prisoner released on parole after serving seven years of a 12-year sentence for drug offences.

Misha Pejanovic, 45, who was released a fortnight ago, faces deportation to former Yugoslavia, but has applied for political asylum. John Marriott, 45, has allowed him to stay with his wife Marianna, 41, and daughter Kate, 8, at their five-bedroom house while awaiting a decision.

Mr Marriott said the Yugoslav would otherwise remain in prison. "I have never done this before," said Mr Marriott. "But I believe there are exceptional circumstances in this case. I believe Misha is a trustworthy and reliable individual. He helps around the house and is a very talented artist, who hopes eventually to find work for his talents... If we are to break the spiral of crime we must encourage people to take trusted former prisoners into the community."

Mr Pejanovic said: "He has risked his reputation to put his trust in me to help me. I will never be able to repay him."

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Recession-hit Network SouthEast says those still in work must cover £80m drop in revenue

Underground and rail fares rise by double inflation rate

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of British Rail and London Transport passengers face swingeing fare increases from January in an attempt to help public transport operators make up the continuing decline in revenue due to the recession.

Average fares on Network SouthEast commuter and InterCity long-distance services are to increase by 7.5 per cent, more than twice the rate of inflation, while some fares are to go up by more than 9.5 per cent because of recent improvements in track and rolling stock.

Fare increases on the Kent Coast and London Tilbury and Southend lines have been restricted to five per cent because of the age of rolling stock and poor punctuality and reliability performance. However, average fare increases on the Great Northern, Northampton, West Anglia and Chiltern lines will be in the region of 9.5 per cent to reflect higher standards of performance.

Fares on London Transport's Underground and bus services are to go up by an average of 8.5 per cent. Underground singles will go up by 10p or 20p, bus fares will go up by 10p, while the cost of an average adult travelcard will go up by almost 10 per cent.

Declining demand for rail travel, reflecting persistent increases in unemployment, has led to a loss of income, which can only be recovered by putting up fares, BR said. As BR is unlikely to secure any increase in subsidy in the current round of public expenditure talks, there is little option but to make those still in work shoulder the costs of the recession. The increases are also needed to help cover the cost of increased safety spending, while helping to pay for BR's modernisation schemes.

Network SouthEast's off-peak fare increases, such as cheap day returns and awaybreaks, have been kept down to five per cent to promote leisure travel. In addition, the date from which discounts will be available for poor performance under the terms of the passenger's charter has been brought forward to January 10.

Defending the fare increases, John Nelson, Network SouthEast's managing director, said: "We are faced with a serious financial prob-

lem. Fewer jobs in London have meant fewer commuters. Our income has dropped by £80 million over the last two years, and we can't make it up from property sales."

Mr Nelson said: "We are constantly improving productivity, but railways have high fixed costs which cannot be reduced quickly without unacceptable cuts in services."

Maintaining a high level of investment is critical to the future of the railways, he said. "Sixty per cent of our routes will have to be resignalled over the next 15 years to keep trains running safely," while "a quarter of our 6,000 coach fleet must be renewed over the same period and we have no new orders in the pipeline."

"The Central Transport Consultative Committee, the national rail passenger watchdog, condemned the increases as 'deplorable'. Average increases of 7.5 per cent on season tickets, with some going up as much as 9.5 per cent — nearly three times the rate of inflation — amount to an exploitation of a monopoly position," a statement said.

Major General Lennox Napier, the committee chairman, said: "Fare increases above the rate of inflation are only justifiable where there have been material improvements in services and where quality standards are being fully met."

"Both InterCity and Network SouthEast failed to meet some of their quality targets in 1991-92 so the decision to raise season ticket rates by an average of twice the rate of inflation is unreasonable."

Defending the high travelcard increases, David Bayliss, London Transport's planning director, said: "Ever since the travelcard concept was devised by London Transport in 1983, it has been a premium product giving the user extra convenience and unlimited journeys with the relevant zones at a discount price. In today's financial situation, however, it is reasonable to charge a price closer to the premium value of travelcards. Nevertheless, the travelcard still typically offers a discount on cash ordinary fares of around 30 per cent."

London Transport's fare increases will bring in an estimated £65 million next year, which is needed to help compensate for increased operating costs, investment schemes, and a further decline in revenue from passengers.



Captive customers: commuters at Waterloo. Many left London for cheaper Home Counties pastures — and spiralling season ticket fares

FARE INCREASES

Network SouthEast: annual season ticket increases to London	Current	New	Percentage
From High Wycombe	£1,568	£1,720	9.69
Chatham	£1,736	£1,824	5.07
Lewisham	£412	£444	7.77
St Albans	£1,400	£1,512	8.0
Colchester	£2,052	£2,216	7.9
Barnet	£1,820	£1,700	5.1
Peterborough	£2,452	£2,712	7.5
Guildford	£1,704	£1,840	7.98
Basingstoke	£2,028	£2,192	8.09
Brighton	£2,016	£2,176	7.94
Reading	£2,028	£2,188	7.89
Aylesbury	£1,856	£2,024	9.05
Ashted (Kent)	£2,040	£2,144	5.10
Berkhamstead	£1,896	£1,856	9.43

InterCity: selected Saver Return increases	Current	New	Percentage
Birmingham	£25	£26	4.0
Edinburgh	£57	£59	3.5
Leeds	£51	£53	4.0
Liverpool	£39	£42	7.6
Manchester	£39	£42	7.6
Newcastle	£54	£57	4.7
York	£51	£54	5.9
Bristol	£33	£36	6.1
Cardiff	£38	£40	5.3
Sheffield	£40	£41.50	3.8

Urban emigrants count the cost of a country lifestyle

■ The economics of long-distance commuting since the boom of the early eighties make staggering reading

BEHIND the privet hedge overlooking the common lies Gaffney Cottage, a pleasant £35,000 three-bedroom village house in Westwoodside near Doncaster (Michael Horsnell writes).

Long-distance commuters to London who quit the capital a decade ago for a home among the lush, cheaper pastures might gnash their teeth at the very sight of the For Sale notice. If they had stayed put, kept their London homes and banked the money

they have since been forced to spend on their season tickets they would have saved more than enough to buy Gaffney Cottage as a weekend retreat.

The economics of rail travel since the housing boom and outward commuter rush of the early eighties make staggering reading for the battalions of Londoners who headed out of the capital in search of a country idyll made possible by cheap travel.

The commuter from Doncaster with a job in the capital

paid £1,750 for his annual season ticket in 1982. In January he will pay £5,688. Come the new year he will have spent £40,128 on travel since 1982.

Those who have struggled into Cross from around Doncaster for ten years would have saved themselves 796,224 miles of travel — the equivalent of 311.9 days on an InterCity train, after taking account of holidays.

While only a small proportion of the capital's workers commute from South Yorkshire, 130,000 arrive at London's Liverpool Street station from East Anglia and the Essex coast each morning. In 1982 an annual season ticket from Norwich cost £1,400. From January it will be £4,080. By then the commuter who moved east in 1982 will have paid £29,225.

Chris Sawyer, 43, a company director, commutes to London from Ipswich. He left Ipswich, north London, to buy a £90,000 farmhouse in 1986. "If I had known fare increases would be consistently above the rate of inflation I would have had very serious thoughts about moving out."

A commuter from Peterborough will have to find £3,712 for his annual season ticket in January after paying a mere £1,222 in 1982. The increase means he will have spent £26,184 in that time.

Commuters tell of being railroaded

By JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

COMMUTERS on the 7am Leeds to London service were studying the vacancies columns in the Yorkshire Post yesterday after hearing that their annual season tickets would cost 8 per cent more from January.

Helen Smith, a civil servant who makes the daily 100-minute journey from Doncaster to King's Cross, said that she would leave her job when her £5,104 ticket expired. "It's no longer financially viable. I'd never pay out all this money for anything else. I could buy a car every year if I didn't commute."

Steve Pearson, an accountant who makes the same

journey, said: "This fare rise is pushing me to the limits, but we are in the middle of a recession and there are no jobs, especially up North. Commuting cuts a great big hole out of my salary but BR know that I will have to pay them what they ask, because I have to work in London. It's a terrible Catch 22."

David Smetton, a lecturer, who paid £3,700 for a season ticket from Grantham, Lincolnshire, said: "I have been commuting for ten years and four years ago there were about 300 of us coming in from Grantham. Now it will be a hundred at most. These fare rises are completely

counter-productive. British Rail have alienated commuters who refuse to pay out these enormous amounts any more and have found work nearer home."

"The only ones left are people like me, who don't have an option. I couldn't sell my house even if I wanted to move and the job I do doesn't exist in Lincolnshire."

Paul Monteith, a claims manager, who has spent four hours a day for two years travelling from York to London, said: "I pay £1,800 for a quarterly ticket and if it gets much more, I think I'll end up staying at a friend's in London in the week."



Helen Smith: "I could buy a car every year"

Male rape victims urged to defy taboo

■ A spate of sex attacks on men highlights the trauma of the victims

By RICHARD FORD AND ADAM FRESCO

SEVEN serious sexual assaults on men this year in London alone have highlighted the taboo subject of male rape. As the latest victim, a hairdresser raped on Hampstead Heath, northwest London, was recovering yesterday, police and welfare agencies urged men to overcome their inhibitions and report sexual attacks.

Little is known about the incidence, cause or effects of male rape. Police and researchers believe reported incidents are only the tip of the iceberg.

Dr Michael King, senior lecturer at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, said that male rape dated from Roman times, "usually linked with invading armies, boarding schools and prisons, but it has not been recognised in the country at large until the last few years."

Under British law, rape refers only to forcible penetration of the vagina by the penis. The term used for male rape is non-consensual buggery, which carries a maximum penalty of ten years in prison. Buggery with a boy under 16, a woman, including the perpetrator's wife, or an animal carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Although recorded offences

of buggery have almost doubled from 630 in 1985 to 1,120 in 1990, the number of prosecutions remains small. In 1990 there were 25 for buggery without consent with a male over the age of 16 and six for assault with intent to commit buggery. Thirty incidents of buggery of males over 18 were recorded by the Metropolitan police in the 12 months to April 1992.

To cope with the increase in reports of male rape and other sexual assaults on men, Scotland Yard has set up a pilot project. Twenty-six officers have been trained as counsellors and the suites used for female rape victims are made available for men.

There is little in existing culture that prepares a man to accept himself as a potential victim. Shock, disbelief and embarrassment deter many heterosexual men from reporting rape, particularly as the act challenges basic attitudes about masculinity and, until recently, has been perceived as a homosexual problem.

A study of 100 men by Survivors, a support group for male victims of sexual attacks, found that 72 knew their assailants. Among the symptoms experienced were sexual dysfunction and damaged sexual identity.

Witch was organist at church

By ROBIN YOUNG

A MINISTER called yesterday for a church in Gloucester to be exorcised after the former organist admitted being a witch who worshipped naked in his own occult temple.

For almost six years Shaun Pickering-Merrett accompanied hymns at St Michael's Church in Tuffrey, Gloucester. When he told the vicar, the Rev Tony Minchin, that he was not a Christian, Mr Minchin asked him to continue nonetheless.

Now that Mr Minchin is leaving the parish, however, Mr Pickering-Merrett has resigned and a minister of another denomination had demanded that St Michael's be exorcised.

Mr Pickering-Merrett, 26, denies being a servant of the devil, saying he uses witchcraft to help people. His "sacred temple" is in the spare bedroom of his Gloucester council house. "I usually worship alone but when the coven meets for rituals everyone is usually naked," Mr Pickering-Merrett said. "There is nothing sexual about it. I worship a god and a goddess, both pre-Christian. The goddess is Diana. I have named my ginger cat after her."

Instructor praised for rescuing boy

By TIM JONES

THE father of a teenage boy yesterday praised the heroism of an adventure instructor who gave his life saving his son in an underground lake.

Graham Lipp, 34, was leading seven teenage boys and girls on a caving exercise in the Brecon Beacons when Wayne Brown, 15, suddenly vanished beneath the surface. Mr Lipp dived into the water and emerged to hand the unconscious boy into the arms of his friends.

But Mr Lipp, a bachelor, who also lectured at an outward bound college in Liverpool, was apparently caught in strong currents and sucked beneath a rock ledge where his legs were trapped by the roots of a submerged tree. His body was later recovered by the West Brecon cave rescue team.

Two of the schoolboys, who were attending a five-day course at the Dolygaer outward bound centre near Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan, carried Wayne to safety and revived him with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. The tragedy happened as Mr Lipp was guiding the four boys and three girls from Y Pant School in Llantrisant through an area of the Porth Yr Ogof caves near Ystradfellte, known as The Resurgencies.

As he sat by his son's hospital bedside yesterday, Mr Philip Brown said: "I feel deeply indebted for what that man did. Wayne is a weak swimmer who can only stay afloat for a few strokes."

The head of the centre, Clive Roberts, said Mr Lipp was a very popular man who lived for the outdoors and was highly experienced. Mid Glamorgan County Council, which runs the centre, said it had a first class safety record and was staffed by a team of professional instructors. "We are carrying out a full and detailed investigation into the tragic incident."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy left on 10th floor window sill

A boy aged six was left bound and hooded on the sill of an open window of a 10th-floor flat where a man had held him prisoner for hours, Plymouth Crown Court was told yesterday.

The window space was large enough for the boy to have fallen through, Michael Self QC, for the prosecution, said. The child had been lured to the flat by David Stobart, 32, with a promise of sweets. He was eventually freed by police and firemen after neighbours raised the alarm.

Stobart, unemployed, from Plymouth, who admitted falsely imprisoning the boy, was remanded in custody for 28 days for assessment at Rampton special psychiatric hospital.

Crew demands monkey back

The crew of a Russian cargo ship is refusing to leave Britain until customs officers at Birmingham, Humberside, give them their monkey back. Officials said that the Indian rhesus monkey, called Mak-simka, is an endangered species and by law has to be taken away to be kept in a zoo.

Valeri Cabelkis, 42, crew member of the Akademik Yurov, bought the monkey from a bazaar in Calcutta. He said: "He has slept in my arms for four months. I have children at home but this monkey is my child on trips."

Rapist jailed

Mark Gunston, 38, a convicted killer, of Roehampton, southwest London, was jailed for 12 years by the Old Bailey for raping a 20-year-old woman at Barnes station, southwest London, two years after being released from jail.

Kray ill

Ronnie Kray, the convicted gangland killer serving life for murder at Broadmoor top-security hospital, Crowthorne, Berkshire, was admitted to Heatherwood Hospital, Asot, for treatment for an unidentified illness.

Pilot dies

An RAF pilot has died in hospital from burns he suffered when his Hawk trainer jet crashed 10 days ago. Flt Lt Philip Martin, 30, from Hampshire, failed to eject when the aircraft hit the ground on take-off at RAF Chivenor in Braintree, Devon.

Body mix-up

Paul Smith, a mortuary assistant, has been sacked and Marco Rossi, a pathologist, is to be reprimanded after a post-mortem examination was performed on the wrong corpse at the Midland Centre for Neurosurgery and Neurology, in Smethwick, West Midlands.

£132,000 car

A 4.5 litre Lagonda V12 drop-head coupe which once belonged to the late Briggs Cunningham, the American racing driver and Americas Cup yachtsman, was sold for £132,000 in a Brooks car auction at Olympia, west London.

Bus contract

The Southern Vectis bus company on the Isle of Wight has beaten off six German companies to win a contract to redesign the bus network at Auerbach, eastern Germany.

Not watching

The prize lot in a Metropolitan police sale of stolen property, a Swiss Tag Heuer watch, was stolen during a public viewing at Putney, southwest London.

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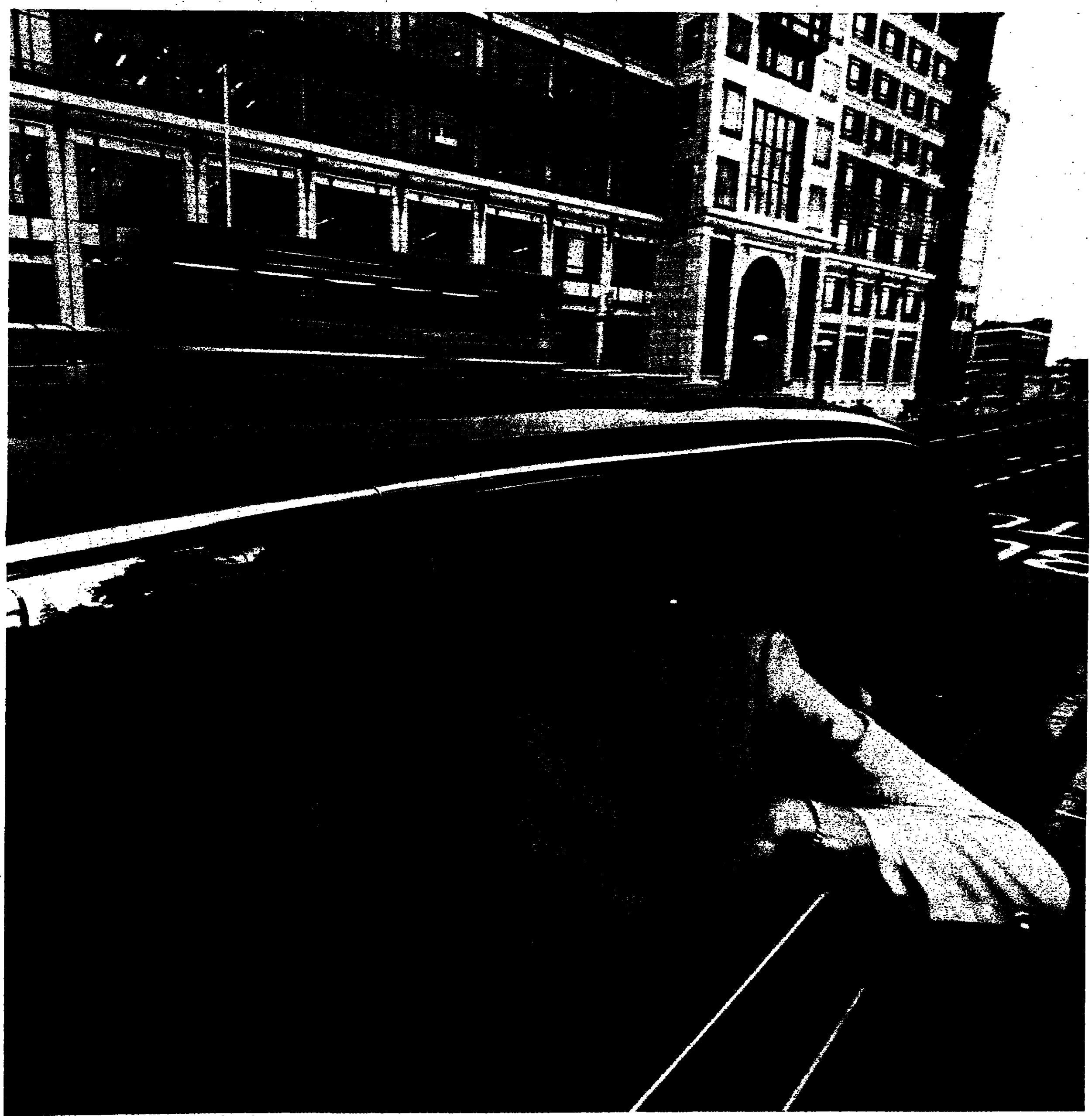
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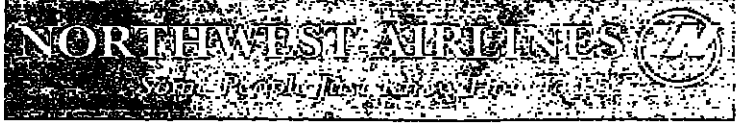
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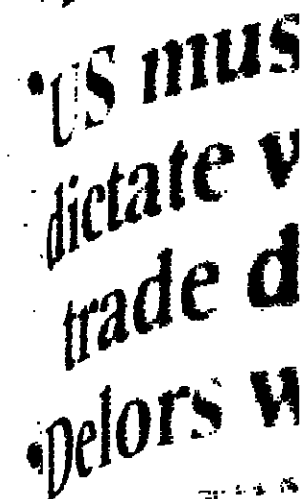
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OUT PRICE INDEX

European leaders meet in Birmingham determined to rescue Gatt despite French objections over farm subsidies

US must not dictate world trade deal, Delors warns

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

EUROPE should not strike a world trade deal on American terms, Jacques Delors of the European Commission said on the eve of today's EC summit in Birmingham.

Most European Community leaders will accept that a trade agreement is urgent and within reach. M. Delors was reacting yesterday to suggestions during the last inconclusive round of talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) that he has promoted France's lone objections to a last-minute deal on farm subsidies.

EC's own reforms of the common agricultural policy, agreed earlier this year.

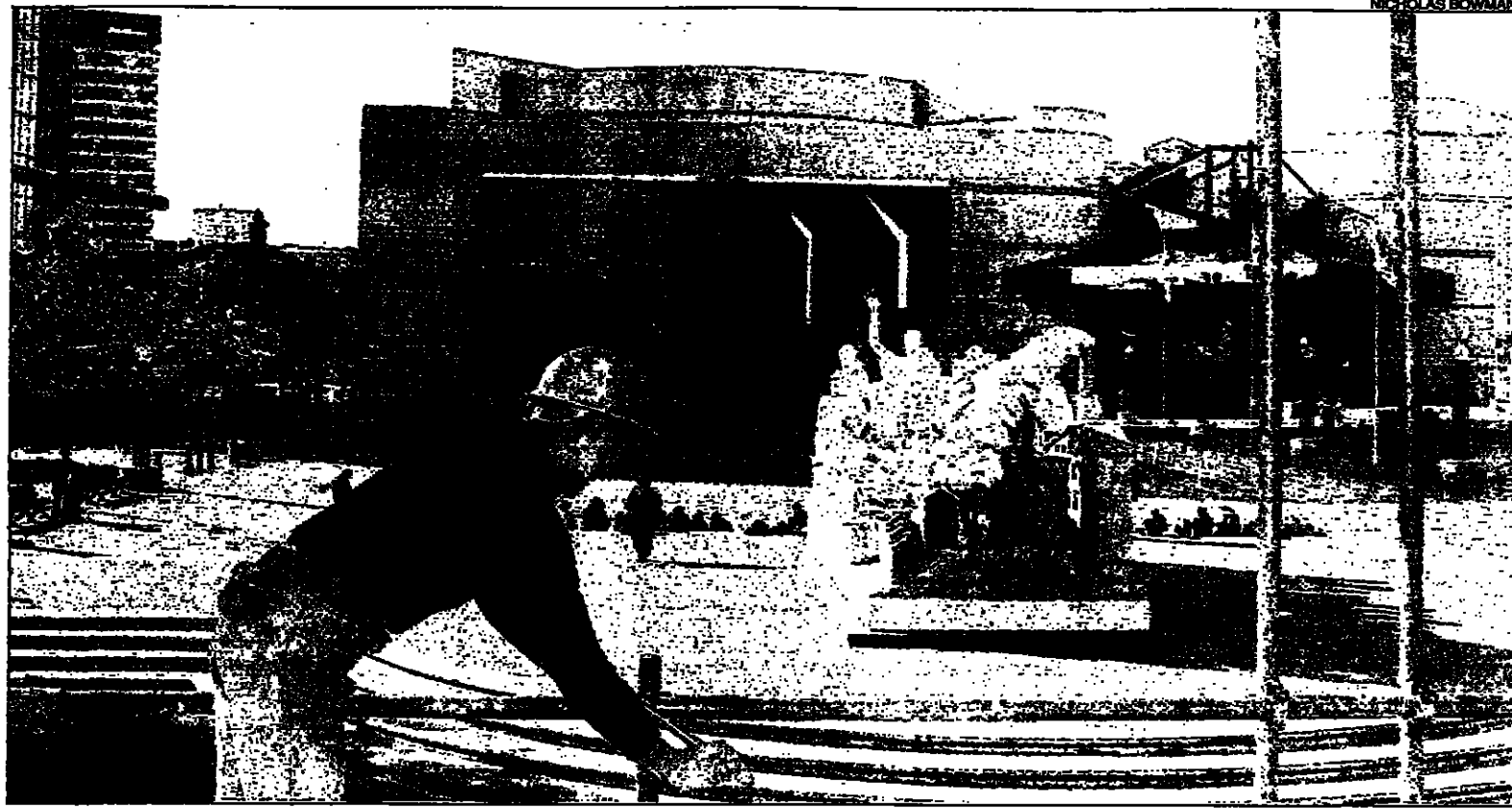
What are the prospects for a 25-year-old farmer, he asked, if he can no longer make any economic choices? "Farmers have their dignity, just as others do," he said. "It is fine to make efforts to make them react to markets, but you cannot then tie their hands and take away their choices. That is putting them in a straitjacket."

He rejected the idea that the Gatt hold-up was due to French obstructions and hinted that other European governments were surrendering to American bullying. The negotiations, he said, were an important test of relations between an adolescent EC and its big brother America. "I have always felt that the Community should be able to say 'No' to its big brother," M. Delors said.

Today's summit will hear a report on the state of the trade talks from M. Delors's Netherlands colleague Frans Andriessen, but will probably mask its divisions in a short, general statement designed not to disturb two further sets of talks between the EC and the US due to take place this weekend and early next week.

The Birmingham debate will be far from only, if Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, applies pressure to soften French resistance. German sources have suggested that the leaders should commit themselves to making a deal before the US election. The suggestion is not widely supported.

After a brief introduction from John Major, M. Delors will open today's discussions by outlining his prescriptions



Square deals: John Galt of Birmingham City Council overseeing preparations in Centenary Square for the European Community summit

Mitterrand sees one-speed EC as a test of his resilience

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

PRESIDENT Mitterrand leaves for Birmingham today eager to join John Major in a session of Community group therapy but also determined to do nothing to derail the essence of European union as defined in the Maastricht treaty.

As the ailing president prepared for the first big test of his stamina since an operation for prostate cancer last month, Elisabeth Guigou, his European affairs minister, made it clear that France would not turn back from its commitment to rapid monetary union.

Asked why France was unwilling to discuss the problem of German interest rates at Birmingham, Mme Guigou said: "We are talking about it but the only way out is to move on towards more of

Europe and more monetary union." This would protect the Community from economic turbulence, she told the *Nouvel Observateur*, voicing what has become holy writ for

the Mitterrand administration since Maastricht was thrown into uncertainty by the French referendum campaign and political turmoil in Britain.

Despite the relative success of the policy so far, a growing number of French business and political leaders are questioning the wisdom of maintaining France's tight link with the mark in the monetary system.

Reacting to the message from French voters, M

Mitterrand's team says it wants to join Mr Major in the effort to "close the democratic deficit" in Europe and inject more transparency into the Community's mechanisms.

However, it stops far short of Britain's desire to see the compilation of a list defining what decisions need to be taken at what level.

"It would be opening a can of worms," one French official said. France has also been eager to dismiss notions of a two-speed Europe, an idea which Mme Guigou yesterday called "absolutely baseless rumour". However, a chorus of French commentators has pointed out that the Community is already operating at two levels, with Britain on the outside. Yesterday, *Le Figaro* urged the summit to accept the two-speed principle.

Scepticism overtakes loyalty to Europe

FROM ANATOLE LIEVEN IN BONN

AS Chancellor Helmut Kohl set off for his meeting with John Major, the prime minister, on the eve of today's summit, opinion polls revealed that only three per cent of Germans have any idea what subsidiarity means.

Moreover, neither the pub-

GERMAN VIEW

lic nor the German press seems to have much hope that anything meaningful will emerge from the Birmingham summit. German politicians continue to swear loyalty to Europe, but in the public, and now in the press, scepticism is growing fast.

A columnist in the newspaper *Die Welt*, Herbert Kremp, yesterday wrote that currency union is receding into the distant future in view of the disturbances on the currency market. "Since the splitting up of the exchange-rate mechanism has brought the truth into the open, we can see that Europe is moving not at two speeds, but at three or four... In Birmingham it will become proverbial that you can't harness a bull, a mule and a racehorse."

He and other German commentators are writing increasingly of the threat of a united Europe becoming a mechanism for Germany to subsidise the poorer countries. While most papers pay lip-service to the belief that Britain must be kept within any European process, there is more talk of the "core-states" of Germany, France and the Netherlands pushing ahead alone.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl failed yesterday to win parliament's approval to change the country's constitution to stop foreign refugees flooding into Germany. A boycott by the opposition Social Democrats denied the chancellor the two-thirds majority he needed.

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MoD faces £50m claim from women fired while pregnant

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of women dismissed from the forces after becoming pregnant are joining together to co-ordinate a mass claim for compensation from the Ministry of Defence that could total more than £50 million.

Solicitors are meeting in London today to launch a national steering group to co-ordinate the claims, which they estimate could be brought by about 5,000 women obliged to leave the forces between August 1978 and August 1990.

So far, 3,300 women have lodged claims with the MoD. One of the women, Lorraine Aitken, 37, of Barnoldswick, Lancashire, was a duty signals officer in charge of her own team when she had to leave the army in February 1980 after eight years. "I joined when I was just 17. It was something I always wanted to do. I met my husband in the service and we managed to be posted together. When I discovered I was pregnant, I was told I had to leave, although in fact I worked until I was five to six months pregnant because they found

Lawyers meet today to co-ordinate a mass claim by thousands of women for unfair dismissal from the armed forces

it hard to replace me."

The nature of her work meant that she could not transfer her skills to a civilian life. "The trade I had was military, that was the only thing I knew about. The army gave me no retraining, so now I am packing greetings cards. I feel very angry — all those wasted years. There were three other men doing the same job as me. I was the only female. They have been able to carry on. But the fact that I could have a child meant that they said, 'Sorry, we don't want you any more.'"

The floodgates for the claims were opened by a High Court ruling last December declaring that the defence ministry's policy was unlawful under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and the EC equal treatment directive. In that case, two former military nurses, Leslie Leale, of Highworth, Wiltshire, and Julie Lane, from Brecon, Powys, received £15,000 and £10,000 respectively, reflect-

ing their lengths of service.

The ministry has accepted the ruling and is in the process of meeting compensation claims. It has also brought in new maternity arrangements, based on the statutory provisions available for women in the civil service, including 14 weeks' full pay.

A ministry spokesman said that offers of up to £10,000, depending on length of service, loss of earnings, pension benefits and £500 for injury to feelings, were being made through the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

He said the women had to provide evidence that they would have returned to their jobs and had applied to return, for their claims to be considered. "We have accepted the ruling and are now anxious to process the claims as quickly as possible. But we have a duty to the taxpayer to have due regard to the way the money is spent, while at the same time fulfilling our obligations."

Kerry Devlin, a solicitor with the law firm Dibb Lupton Broomhead, which is forming the steering group for claims with Norfolk solicitors Steele & Co, said: "The government has accepted liability for any women dismissed from the forces because of pregnancy since August 1978, therefore the question to be determined in each individual case is the scale of compensation payable."

She said that lawyers were concerned that women might be offered far smaller amounts of compensation than their true entitlement. Claims before an industrial tribunal at present are limited to £10,000. That limit is being challenged, however, in a test case before the European Court of Justice, with a decision expected next year.

"If the £10,000 limit is thrown out by the European Court then the potential claims that many of these women have are very substantial."

David Hill, a partner in Dibb Lupton Broomhead, said the co-ordinating group was aimed at ensuring a co-ordinated approach in pursuing claims.



Wasted years: Lorraine Aitken, who was fired from the army when she became pregnant with James, left.

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Farm spray cuts boost profits

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS can increase profits and kill fewer birds and insects by spraying less pesticide on crops, according to a ten-year research project by the agriculture ministry.

Scientists at the Boxworth experimental husbandry farm in Cambridgeshire found that while routine spraying boosted crop yield per acre, the value of the extra output was less than the cost of producing it. The extra use of chemicals also killed insects that did no harm to crops, including predators of pest species.

Lord Howe, junior agriculture minister, said that the project "pointed the way to safer yet economically viable arable farming". The findings effectively destroy the economic case for what was standard farming practice for most of the past 40 years.

The experiment compared the effects on winter-sown wheat of the "full insurance" method, with the crop sprayed at intervals throughout the year as a prophylactic measure, and a "supervised" approach, where chemicals were used only after problems had been detected.

On average yields in the "full insurance" fields were 0.92 tonnes per hectare (2.5 acres) higher and of marginally superior quality. But the profit was £23 per hectare lower than in "supervised" fields chiefly because of higher spending on sprays.

Countryside loss 'twice official rate'

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

THE English countryside is being lost at more than twice the rate the government claims, the Council for the Protection of Rural England says today.

Every year 11,000 hectares (27,000 acres, seven times the size of Windermere, England's largest lake, are lost to urbanisation, while the government acknowledges only 5,000 hectares, the council says in a new survey.

Since the war 705,000 hectares of countryside have gone, more than the combined area of Greater London, Hertfordshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire, but the government admits to 525,000, the council says. At the present rate of loss, a fifth of England would be urban by the middle of the next century.

The council alleges that faulty official statistics are the basis for new planning guidance, relaxing protection for all but the best farmland. It urges that the guidance be re-issued in a stronger form.

The council makes the claims in a technical challenge to all government statistics on land-use change since the war. In *The Lost Land*, Geoffrey Sinclair, an independent environment consultant, compares the agriculture ministry's annual farm census and Forestry Commission data with surveys by the Countryside Commission and London University.

Fischer lets victory slip from his grasp

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

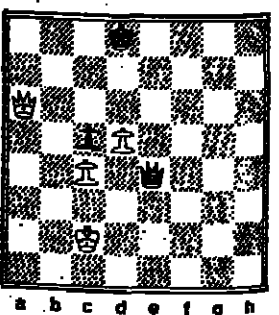
BOBBY Fischer, the mercurial American chess genius, let slip a golden chance in the nineteenth game of his chess match in Belgrade against Boris Spassky. The game, played out on Wednesday night, lasted for eight hours and 50 minutes and finished in a draw after 84 moves, the longest game of the match. However, Fischer, in this marathon battle, had missed numerous chances to win.

On the forty-fifth move, with an overwhelming position, Fischer rashly advanced his main asset, an extra pawn, on the extreme left flank. Spassky snapped it up and thereafter, although Fischer should have had a technical win with two extra pawns in a queen and pawn endgame, he could not drive home his advantage.

Fischer's final error, and the one which definitely threw away the win, was his sixty-eighth move. Instead of taking Spassky's last pawn, he pushed on a pawn of his own and after that his king was unable to escape a series of checks. This was a most disappointing performance by Fischer and a sign that he has still not totally thrown off the rust of two decades of hibernation away from competitive chess. The match score is now seven wins to Fischer, with nine draws and three wins to Spassky.

Game 19

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	e5	44 Bc4	Qd1
2 Nf3	Nc6	45 a7	Qd7
3 Bc4	Bc5	46 Bb5	Qd8
4 Ng5	Nf6	47 Qd3	Qd7
5 We3	Nd7	48 Qd5	Qd8
6 Nc3	Bd7	49 Qd6	Qd7
7 d5	exd5	50 Qd5	Qd7
8 Bg2	Be6	51 Qd6	Qd7
9 Bf1	Bb6	52 Qd6	Qd7
10 Qd2	Rd8	53 Qd6	Qd7
11 exd5	Nd5	54 Qd6	Qd7
12 Bf4	Nf6	55 Qd6	Qd7
13 Qd4	Qd7	56 Qd6	Qd7
14 Bb1	Qd7	57 Qd6	Qd7
15 Bb1	Qd7	58 Qd6	Qd7
16 Bb1	Qd7	59 Qd6	Qd7
17 Qd4	Qd7	60 Qd6	Qd7
18 Qd4	Qd7	61 Qd6	Qd7
19 Rb7	Qd7	62 Qd6	Qd7
20 Qd6	Qd7	63 Qd6	Qd7
21 Rb7	Qd7	64 Qd6	Qd7
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29 Qd6	Qd7	72 Qd6	Qd7
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The final position

Deployment follows American criticism

Rifkind sets timetable for Bosnia mission

British soldiers have set out to operate in volatile country without any guarantee of safe passage from the local warlords

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH battle group of 2,400 troops will be operational in Bosnia and Croatia from November 13, ready to carry out the first armed convoy of humanitarian aid, Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, said yesterday.

The first 35 troops with vehicles and supplies flew to Split last night on board five American C-130 transport planes from RAF Gutersloh in Germany. They included Brigadier Andrew Cunningham, who was named commander of the British forces in Bosnia and Croatia.

Lieutenant Colonel Bob Stewart, commander of the 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment, representing the core of the battle group, will fly out today with a reconnaissance party. Ninety-six military personnel and 33 vehicles will have flown to Split by the end of tomorrow. A thousand British troops will be in former Yugoslavia within two weeks.

The timetable for Britain's contribution to the humanitarian mission, codenamed Operation Grapple, was announced by Mr Rifkind the day after Cyrus Vance, the UN mediator in the former Yugoslavia, criticised the delay in

sending the troops which will form part of UNPROFOR 2, the expanded UN force.

Mr Rifkind agreed that the deployment should take place as quickly as possible but said it was important to do the job properly, which included arranging for accommodation, fuel and supplies. "It is clear from the recce that the physical fabric of the buildings in Bosnia has been so badly damaged by the conflict that we are going to have to put extra effort into setting up accommodation."

Four hundred extra engineers are being sent to set up containers as living quarters, each supplied with water, electricity and heating. This accounts for the increase in troops going from Britain, from the 1,800 originally announced to 2,400. Two hundred extra personnel are going as headquarters staff.

Mr Rifkind said: "No one is under any illusion that this will be an easy operation. Given the strife and hatred that exist in Bosnia, the risks are obvious."

Mr Rifkind's statement came as Major General Zivimir Ninkovic, chief of the Bosnian Serb air force, said he

did not intend to hand over his warplanes to Yugoslavia, despite the pledge given by Radovan Karadzic, the Serb leader. Serb fighters also pounded targets in northern and western Bosnia.

Brigadier David Jenkins, director of military operations who led the reconnaissance party which examined possible convoy routes, admitted the area of British responsibility was "pretty volatile country". He said he had not asked for, nor been given, guarantees of safe passage from the local warlords. Liaison officers representing the UN High Commissioner for Refugees would be relied on to negotiate a way for the convoys.

The British battle group will have 45 Warrior infantry fighting vehicles as protection. They are among more than



Marching orders: Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, announcing that 2,400 British troops would be deployed in Bosnia from November 13

400 vehicles being sent out by sea to Split. The Warriors, similar reconnaissance vehicles and other equipment will start leaving for Split tonight on board the logistics landing ship, *Sir Bedivere*, a Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel. Resources, and several chartered ships.

The European Community's refusal to recognise Mac-

edonia because of Greek objections to its name is adding to the danger of war in the former Yugoslav republic (Eve Ann Prentice writes).

Kiro Gligorov, its president, told the Centre for Policy Studies in London last night: "To push the republic of Macedonia to the status of a nameless nation in the Balkans provides the conditions

for war." He spoke of the economic strains caused by an economic blockade imposed by Greece, coupled with loss of trade with Serbia because Macedonia complies with UN sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia.

Operation Grapple, page 1
Leading article and letters, page 17

Panic fishes for votes in Kosovo

FROM TIM JUDAH IN PRISTINA

MILAN Panic, the Yugoslav prime minister, has said that Kosovo will make or break him. Bearing broadly and patting the province's ethnic Albanian leader, Ibrahim Rugova, on the back yesterday, he announced: "Dr Rugova and I are going to democratised the Yugoslav system."

The idea that Dr Rugova, the undisputed leader of Kosovo's two million independence-minded Albanians, will help "democratised Yugoslavia" will send shock waves through Serbia. Kosovo, the heartland of Serbian history and myth, is the beginning and the end of the national nightmare. Dr Rugova leads its struggle for independence and Serbs are now barely 10 per cent of its population.

According to Fehmi Agani, the vice-president of Dr Rugova's Democratic League of Kosovo, the aim of independence has not been re-nounced. "We are not trying to help Mr Panic," said Mr Agani, "but he hopes to get Albanian support in the elections."

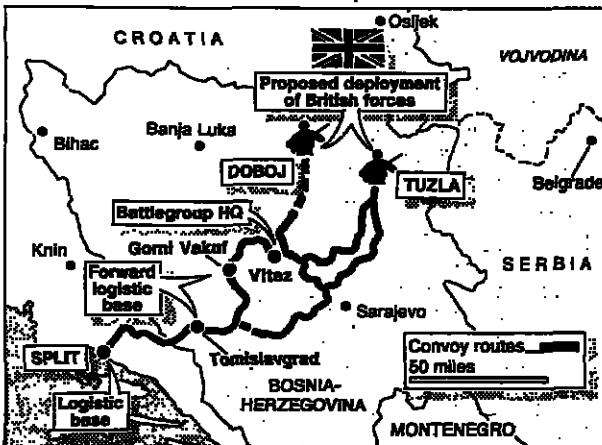
Since the end of Kosovo's autonomy the province has lived in an uneasy twilight of

repression and parallel lives. Almost every professional ethnic Albanian has been sacked. So have tens of thousands of other ordinary workers. Albanians now educate their own children in makeshift schools in private houses.

Albanians have voted for secession, for independence and for a parliament that cannot meet. They have a government of eight men who float around Germany, Macedonia and other countries collecting money to support the cause.

Ethnic Albanians are quietly confident that there will be no war here. They believe Serbia will collapse under the weight of sanctions and that when the time is ripe Kosovo will drop like a plump peach into their hands. The line is to bide their time, to build their parallel state and to avoid a war at all costs.

If war comes, Serbs and Albanians agree that the former have the advantage in terms of military hardware. But, with the demography stacked so heavily against the Serbs, it is hard to see how any policy of "ethnic cleansing" as seen in northern Bosnia could be carried out here.



Babushkas hail Rostov Ripper death sentence

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN ROSTOV-ON-DON

Andrei Chikatilo, alias the "Rostov Ripper", the Russian serial killer who tortured, cannibalised and murdered at least 52 people, was sentenced to death here yesterday. The packed courtroom, erupted in applause as Judge Leonid Akubzhanov pronounced sentence on Chikatilo, 57. No mass murderer has ever been tried for more killings.

From behind his iron cage, Chikatilo, a former teacher and Communist party member, jumped up when the sentence was announced and shouted at the judge: "You're a crook. You're a crook." As he was restrained by guards, relatives of his victims tried to push through a cordon of police, crying: "Kill the beast."

Over 12 years, Chikatilo tempted young women and children into forest walks with him around Rostov, 500 miles south of Moscow, before carrying out sadistic sexual and cannibalistic acts on his victims.

As the trial reached its climax yesterday, order in the court broke down. With the judge demanding quiet and police trying to keep at bay a large crowd outside the court, grandmothers jostled with students to stand on the courtroom chairs to gaze at Chikatilo. "They'll use electricity, won't they?" asked a babushka in a tattered fur coat. "No, no. They'll use a bullet to kill him," replied another elderly woman. In fact, the murderer will be killed by a single bullet in the back of the head, probably by the end of next month, if the planned appeal on the ground of insanity fails.

Chikatilo may well be the last Russian murderer to be executed. In the past six months a presidential commission has commuted 45 death sentences, and backed only one for a multiple killer and rapist.

The trial, the first criminal case to receive Western-style media attention, has shocked a nation not given



Chikatilo: awaiting sentence yesterday

to reading sordid details of murder cases. Chikatilo often dismembered his victims and as his lust for killing developed he began to eat parts of them.

The case has done little to encourage public confidence in the police. Accusations of bungling by the Soviet militia, whose presence has always been overwhelming apart from when crimes were being committed, came from all quarters, including the judge. One man has already been executed for a murder to which Chikatilo has since confessed.

Only in 1982 was the decision made to treat the child killings in and around Rostov as the work of one man. Chikatilo had already been questioned once by then. He was arrested again in 1984 and taken in for questioning. He was released after being discredited as a suspect because of a rare discrepancy between his blood and sperm types. He murdered 22 more times after his release in 1985.

The judge remarked that the root of the police's failure to find Chikatilo lay not only in their inability to act effectively but in the state of Soviet society: "Children were taught to do whatever adults wanted them to. There were no independent-minded children who might have challenged or doubted him."

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Party workers start to lose faith in Bush campaign

■ After hiding Dan Quayle, a beleaguered Mr Bush is striving to emulate his vice-president's debating skills. But opinion polls indicate it could all be too late

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush entered last night's second presidential debate in Richmond, Virginia, trailing helplessly in the latest polls, beset by looming scandals, and with Republican officials beginning to abandon ship.

In a last-ditch attempt to rescue his campaign, the president promised to carry the battle to Bill Clinton as aggressively as Dan Quayle had carried it to Al Gore in Tuesday's fiery vice-presidential confrontation. The Bush campaign had previously striven to keep Mr Quayle out of public sight, but after Tuesday's debate, watched by 72 million Americans, the vice-president was given a hero's welcome at the White House. He and Mr Bush made their first joint appearance since August 21. "I'll try my hardest to do as well as he did," Mr Bush said. "I've got to go in and get a few lessons."

A less structured format, with an audience of undecided voters asking questions, offered Mr Bush much greater opportunity to go "head-to-head" with Mr Clinton, but a really dramatic performance was required of the president. With just 18 days till the election, a CBS-New York Times poll yesterday measured his support at just 34 per cent, 13 points behind the Arkansas governor, with Ross Perot on 10.

Despite weeks of withering Republican assaults on Mr Clinton's character and trustworthiness, his favourability ratings have actually risen seven points to 41 per cent, and 73 per cent said they were unmoved by Mr Bush's attacks on Mr Clinton's anti-war activities while studying at Oxford.

A USA Today-CNN poll put Mr Clinton 12 points ahead. State-by-state polls suggest that, barring some dramatic development, Mr Clinton could be heading for the biggest electoral college victory since Lyndon Johnson beat Barry Goldwater in all but six states in 1964.

Republican lobbyists and think-tanks report numerous calls from Bush administration officials seeking job advice. "They are really afraid the president is going to lose," Karen Czarnecki, who liaises with the White House for the conservative Heritage Foundation, said. Recriminations



are starting over the hapless campaign. Republican congressional candidates are rapidly distancing themselves from the president.

Senator Arlen Specter, fighting for re-election in Pennsylvania, gave the president the briefest of greetings when he arrived in Philadelphia on Monday and avoided him for the rest of the day. Even Robert Dole, the Senate minority leader, has adopted campaign literature portraying himself as an independent candidate.

Compounding Mr Bush's problems, David Boren, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, is now spearheading demands for a Watergate-style special prosecutor to investigate the so-called "Iraqgate" scandal. It has emerged that the administration failed to provide information to a federal court investigating the Atlanta branch of an Italian bank that made \$4 billion in illicit loans to Iraq before the Gulf war. The Justice Department and the CIA have both blamed the other. Democratic congressmen suspect that the administration may have conspired in the loans and been engaged in a cover-up.

Moreover, the Justice Department has launched a preliminary criminal inquiry into possible ethical lapses by William Sessions, the FBI director. Mr Boren said this could be an attempt to intimidate Judge Sessions, whose agency is planning to investigate the Justice Department's role in the "Iraqgate" scandal.

"The fighting on the Iraq cover-up marks the *fin de regime* for the Bush presidency," Jim Hoagland, a Washington Post columnist wrote yesterday. "This administration is not simply living out its final unhappy days in power. This is a total collapse in which officials flee to escape being buried in the wreckage."

Republicans face California rout

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA is a nation within a nation. Its 156,000 square miles are bordered by mountains and sea, and encompass desert and ancient Redwood forests. Only five countries in the world have a bigger gross domestic product. The state has 30 million people of many races, and a fifth of the electoral college votes required to reach the White House.

By any measure this behemoth should be a key presidential battleground, but this year the Republican army has laid down its weapons and fled. The capitulation is absolute, the rout everywhere apparent. President Bush, who in 1988 could not keep himself away, has not been here since a wretched mid-September rally when the crowd headed and began drifting off halfway through his speech. The next day he cancelled interviews with four San Francisco television stations and escaped to Oregon.

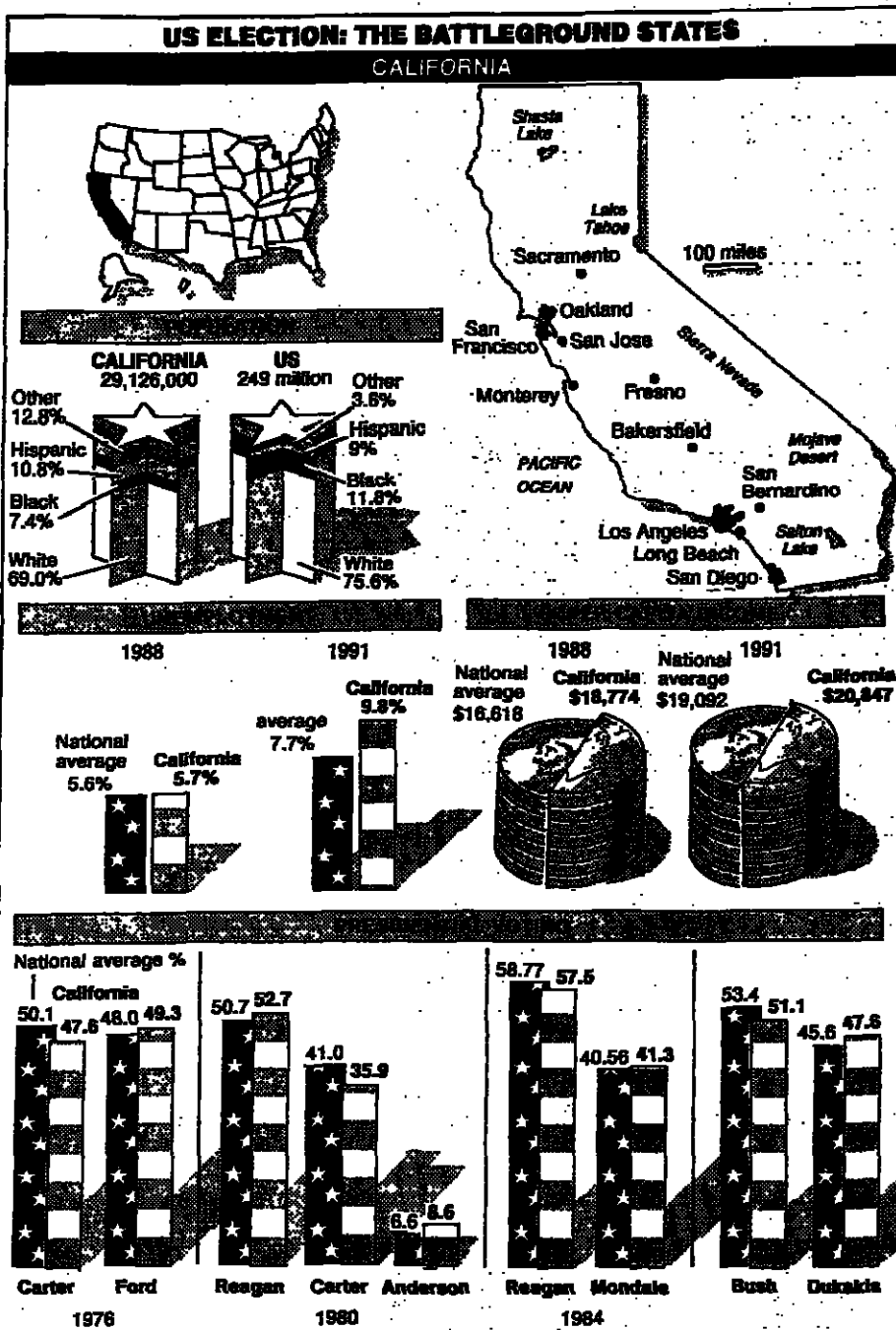
Dan Quayle, the vice-president, who still occasionally flits in to raise funds, last week attempted a walkabout in San Francisco's Chinatown. Onlookers turned so hostile that his secret service agents bundled him into his limousine.

The Bush camp abandoned plans to hold one of the presidential debates in San Diego. It has not advertised or actively campaigned here in weeks. The Bush campaign in the state ranges "from disarray to non-existent", said Mervin Field, a leading California pollster. Joe Scott, publisher of a California political newsletter, said the campaign's condition was "terminal".

The California Republican party is rent by deep divisions. Pete Wilson, the state governor and a moderate, actually boycotted the California party's convention in Los Angeles last month because it had been hijacked by the religious right. Steven Merksamer, the Sacramento lawyer who chaired Mr Bush's 1988 California campaign, said: "It's the most serious split I recall in my lifetime."

Statewide, Mr Bush trails Bill Clinton, his Democratic challenger, by at least 20 points, double the national figure, and is barely ahead even in Orange County, that vast suburban sprawl south of Los Angeles where, in Ronald Reagan's words, "good Republicans come home to die". Once the most dependable Republican stronghold in the West, it is now the place where, observed Lou Cannon, *The Washington Post's* veteran Los Angeles correspondent, Mr Bush's political fortunes are sinking "like the autumn sun into the Pacific".

All this in the state that launched the Reagan and Nixon presidencies, a state the Republicans have not lost since 1964 and without which no Republican has reached the White House since 1880. And it is not just the presiden-



tial race that California's Republicans are losing. The Bush meltdown is threatening his party's November 3 ticket from top to bottom.

Both California's two Senate seats are likely to fall to the Democrats, making Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer the Senate's first all-woman team. In spite of favourable boundary changes, the Republicans have abandoned hope of big gains in California's 52 congressional elections. Gone too are their hopes of recapturing a state



Feinstein expected to win seat in Senate

legislature which the Democrats control by 47 to 33. Mr Merksamer said: "This has the potential of being an absolutely disastrous year."

The root cause of Mr Bush's astonishing unpopularity is the Golden State's worst economic recession since the Depression, one deeper than anywhere else in America, which has hit a middle class which considers affluence a birthright. California's defence and aerospace industries have been badly hit. Nearly one in ten Californians is unemployed and 700,000 jobs have been lost since mid-1990, two-fifths of all jobs lost in America. House prices in southern California have dropped 25 per cent. Mr Field said the mood was more gloomy than any he could remember. The only people prospering are people hiring out trucks, catering for a mass emigration.

But Californians also have a natural antipathy to Mr Bush, the East Coast patrician. Mr Scott said: "He just doesn't fit culturally." Virginia Postrel, editor of the Los Angeles magazine *Reason*, said: "Bush is about being. California is about becoming."

Reagan is still remembered not as Mr Reagan's vice-president, but as the man who ran against the Gipper for the Republican presidential nomination in 1980.

Blue-collar Reagan Democrats have abandoned Mr Bush. Yuppies and suburbanites have become "Clinton Republicans". California is now witnessing the total collapse of the Reagan coalition that ensured 12 years of unbroken Republican rule; the end of an era, a generational change. As ever, California leads the nation. Election nerves: A Republican voter in California is suing Bill Clinton for emotional problems that she says have been caused by his candidacy. Katherine Balog, 60, said the Democratic presidential candidate was a "drift dodger" and "communist sympathiser". The prospect of him as president was causing her "serious emotional and mental stress".

The unemployed accountant said she would be forced to seek medical treatment, in a lawsuit which a spokesman for Mr Clinton's California campaign called "an off-the-wall publicity stunt". (Reuters)

Gorbachev accused of Katyn cover-up

FROM ANNE MCCOY IN MOSCOW

A NEW front has opened in the battle between Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, and Mikhail Gorbachev with Mr Yeltsin's decision to open security files implicating his predecessor in the cover-up of the massacre of Polish officers at Katyn during the second world war. He has also accused Mr Gorbachev of concealing details of the Soviet shooting of a Korean jet in 1983.

The former Soviet president responded angrily to the accusation yesterday and accused Mr Yeltsin of exploiting the Katyn atrocity as part of a political campaign against him. He denied that he had tried to conceal the documents proving that Stalin had ordered the deaths of 15,000 Polish officers in the forest near Smolensk in 1940, and insisted that he had looked at the file only days before his resignation. "I handed over the documents to Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] and said, 'Now this is your burden,'" he told journalists.

Mr Gorbachev then accused the Russian government of producing the Katyn files now to increase pressure on him to testify at the constitutional court's trial of the Communist party. "We must ask why those who accuse me of unnecessary delay in making public these documents had them for a further year themselves before they opened them and why this week in particular," he said.

Vyacheslav Kostikov, Mr Yeltsin's spokesman, announced on Wednesday that the documents, retrieved from the Communist party's war archive, recounted the history of attempts to divert blame for the Katyn incident. He said that all the Soviet leaders from Khrushchev onwards reviewed the case and chose to keep the names of the killers secret. "The respected Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev knew of this tragedy years ago and the true identity of the guilty men but he remained silent," Mr Kostikov said, waving "top secret" files around with glee.

He claims that Mr Gorbachev had received the files by April 1990 but that he waited a year before giving the information to the Polish government. The file was finally handed over to President Walesa on Wednesday.

The Russian leader, who is angered by Mr Gorbachev's support abroad, is now grimly determined to crush his predecessor and to discredit him in the eyes of the West. On Monday the government handed over a file on the Korean Airline jet shot down by Soviet forces in 1983 and emphasised that all the details had been available to all Kremlin leaders since the incident.

Allen saves friend from choking

New York: Woody Allen has reportedly saved the life of a woman who was choking on a piece of bread in a restaurant here, an incident variously described as an "act of pure heroism" and a "publicity stunt" (Ben Macintyre writes). The film-maker was dining with Jean Domanian, a television producer, on Wednesday when she started choking. He kept to her aid and performed a first aid technique known as the Heimlich manoeuvre. The incident has prompted a change of tack by the New York tabloids over the scandal surrounding his child-custody battle with Mia Farrow, his former lover. After months of describing Allen as a diabolical child-molester, the *New York Post* yesterday pronounced "Woody The Life Saver" across its front page.

Rushdie travels

Paris: The author Salman Rushdie, under a death threat from Iran, said he was coming out of hiding more often. This year he had visited Norway, Denmark, Spain and America, twice, and regularly attended public events. (Reuters)

Dubcek surgery

Prague: Alexander Dubcek, the chairman of the Czechoslovak federal parliament and leader of the 1968 Prague Spring, has had urgent abdominal surgery and is said to be in a very critical condition. He was injured in a car accident six weeks ago. (AP)

Talks in doubt

Issana: South Africa sent a private jet to the highland stronghold of Jonas Savimbi, but doubts remained whether the Angolan rebel leader would attend summit talks in Luanda aimed at averting renewed civil war. (Reuters)

Trial debated

New York: Mississippi's supreme court began deliberating whether to proceed with the third trial of Byron De La Beckwith, 71, a white supremacist accused of killing the black civil rights leader, Medgar Evers, in 1963.

Room service

Athens: The Greek government is looking for hotels suitable for conversion into jails to meet an expected surge in the prison population. New legislation includes jail terms for those with debts to the state of £300 or more.

Bardot wedded

Paris: Brigitte Bardot, 58, the former film star, was married in August for the fourth time to Bernard d'Ormale, 51, an aide to Jean-Marie Le Pen, the far-right French politician, a spokesman for the National Front said. (Reuters)

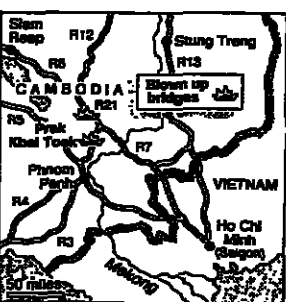
Khmer Rouge blasts bridges in defiant anti-UN show

By BEN KIERNAN AND DAVID WATTS

THE Khmer Rouge has blown up two bridges in central Cambodia, cutting off traffic to the north and effectively creating its own zone. Nothing could more clearly illustrate the Khmer Rouge's contempt for the United Nations peace plan and its new military and financial independence of its previous sponsors, the Chinese government, whose troops had built one of the bridges.

The attacks came just as the UN Security Council was approving a resolution, which effectively permits the Khmer Rouge to prevent the people in its zone voting in the elections next month. The bridge explosions severed the key Route 6 and the smaller Route 21 in an eerie repetition of the genocidal group's tactics.

Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge has refused to disarm its 13,000-member army of battle-hardened soldiers although its opponents have already yielded to the requirements of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Uniac). It is clear that the Khmer Rouge has



called the world's bluff and seemed certain to play a key role in the future of Cambodia despite its record of killings.

Its transgression threatens to nullify the effects of the £1.17 billion UN effort in Cambodia. The international community has given the Khmer Rouge time to extend its military control, move into the political arena, stockpile weapons and make vast sums of money — all without the UN control that the United Nations agreement stipulates.

As the Cambodian economy collapses through continuing denial of aid, the Khmer Rouge still threatens the

people of Cambodia, backed by the £58 million a year it is earning through the illicit trading of gems and timber from the northwest of the country around Pailin.

Since notifying Yasushi Akashi, the United Nations director, of its refusal to disarm or give his organisation access to its zone, the Khmer Rouge has continued to violate the agreement with impunity. In mid-June Mr Akashi said the Khmer Rouge "seems to have returned to the offensive in the northern part of Cambodia", committed "pretty serious" violations and "gravely compromised" the settlement. In early July, a UN helicopter flying near the Khmer Rouge base of Pailin was hit by ground fire. The UN merely sent a letter asking that the Khmer Rouge "refrain from such actions".

Not only has the Khmer Rouge moved into areas of Battambang and Siemreap to fill the vacuum created by the cantonment of their opponents but it is again perpetrating racial massacres. Khmer Rouge, armed with B40 rocket launchers and AK47 rifles, stormed a village in Kompong Chhnang in the spring, killing seven ethnic Vietnamese.

The Khmer Rouge line has been clearly enunciated by Khieu Samphan, its foreign affairs spokesman: "If the Cambodian people cannot see a peaceful resolution to the problem, they will seek other means."

Ben Kiernan is associate professor of Southeast Asian history at Yale University and the author of *How Pol Pot Came to Power*

Tokyo imperial hack pack bows to scrape up the palace snippets

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

It was a rather special breed of Japanese reporter that assembled yesterday in an inner sanctum of the Imperial Palace for a rare audience with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on the subject of their trip to China next week. Hair had been combed along precision partings and sober suits and ties carefully selected so as not to jar their royal highnesses' honourable lines of vision.

Electronic beepers, portable phones and other offensive journalistic paraphernalia had been relinquished at the door and a reverential hush quickly descended on the assembly of tame scribes as they waited for white-gloved officials to roll aside a wooden screen and reveal the imperial couple.

Buckingham Palace must long for Britain's royal hack pack to take a few tips from their Japanese counterparts. As emperor and empress assumed their thrones at the front of the room, the reporters rose to their feet and performed a deep and lingering collective bow.

A senior journalist pronounced in exquisitely polite tones that all present were painfully aware of their impinging inexcusably on the busy schedule of their honourable emperor. The emperor moved his head down about half an inch in acknowledgment, then as cameras clicked he set off at what was afterwards agreed to be a cracking pace, pausing for only a couple of seconds after every

second word. "I hope to contribute to the promotion of friendly relations between Japan and China," he said, in highly polished prose, gliding delicately from one pre-arranged question to the next. The empress informed the assembly that she agreed with all the emperor had said.

There is seldom much content in imperial press conferences as the emperor is never allowed to be put in a tight spot. Questions are submitted in advance to be vetted by the Imperial Household Agency, an august body of aristocratic government officials who act as keepers of the imperial mystique.

The emperor commits his answers to memory and, in the event that he strays from his official script, reporters attend a post-conference conference at which the "mistakes" are "corrected".

Japan's royal reporters are members of the official imperial press club, and any breach of protocol brings instant dismissal and withdrawal of all access to the palace. One photographer was summarily expelled two years ago after he committed a shocking breach of etiquette by taking a picture of Prince Akihito, the emperor's second son, and his wife, Princess Kiko, without prior approval. Britain's tabloid editors would be puzzled to discover that both subjects were fully clothed and his picture merely showed the princess rearranging the prince's hair.

Reforms of a 'non-person' hold sway at China congress

FROM JAMES FRINGLE IN PEKING



Zhao Ziyang: proposed reforms five years ago

WHEN he celebrates his seventy-third birthday tomorrow Zhao Ziyang, the former Chinese Communist party leader, must reflect on the irony of his position. As the party proceeds at its 14th congress to implement what appears to be a contradiction in terms, a "socialist market economy", it is borrowing from ideas proposed at the last congress five years ago by Mr Zhao.

But the former party secretary-general has, since just before the bloody suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations at Tiananmen Square in June, 1989, become, in Orwellian terms, a "non-person", unmentioned during the current deliberations. Just before the congress began on Monday, the party's central committee decided the long-running investigation into Mr Zhao's alleged crimes — he went to Tiananmen Square shortly before the troops moved in and told the students he was sorry, he had come "too late" — would be ended. He had been "lax and irresolute", it had been determined, but the party wanted to sweep the whole divisive issue under the carpet.

Even a partial clearing of Mr Zhao might have been interpreted as an admission of error on the decision to crack down. The economic reforms now under way open up possibilities of social unrest similar to those that led to the 1989 protests. Millions of workers soon to lose jobs in the state sector are unlikely to be feeling particularly happy with the party leadership.

When a correspondent raised Mr Zhao's role in

economic policy yesterday at a news conference by party leaders in the Great Hall of the People, on the edge of Tiananmen Square, there was a pained silence as each waited for another to answer. Finally, Hong Hu, a vice-minister in the economic restructuring commission, picked up the poisoned chalice. Deng Xiaoping, 88, the patriarchal figure now again at China's helm, was the "chief architect" of China's reform and opening up, he said, and it was his plan that was behind the theory of "socialism with Chinese characteristics".

The 14th party congress has heard of the historic contributions made by Mr Deng Xiaoping. Mr Hong said Mr Zhao's role had been dealt with before the congress began, he added. Correspondents gained the impression that even mentioning the name of Mr Zhao, once the heir apparent, was an act of

daring. Mr Deng may be China's senior leader but hardliners in the leadership continue to cramp his reforming style — although Mr Deng himself, who was the one, few doubt, who gave the order to fire on the students, is no liberal.

But Mr Zhao, who is still often referred to as "comrade", is at least still alive, and may even be enjoying his enforced retirement. Japanese diplomats occasionally see him playing golf at the club they frequent.

At airport deadlock: China yesterday rejected Britain's latest attempt to break the six-month deadlock over the financing of Hong Kong's multi-billion pound airport, although the peace offering had largely been based on China's own ideas for vast capital injections from the colony's own funds (Jonathan Bradway writes).

Frustrated British diplomats accused China of refusing to take "yes" for an answer and failing to put forward any new proposals of their own. China's obstructive stance, apparently timed to heighten tensions in advance of the first visit to Peking next week by Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, raises the fear that the airport may be used as a bargaining chip in the dispute over Mr Patten's plans to boost democracy in the colony in the final years of British rule. However, Peking insists that the two issues are not linked and that its worries are solely over the costs Hong Kong will have to bear after it returns to Chinese control in 1997.

the lost land

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Damaged Sphinx and mosques add to Cairo's catalogue of misery

Egypt quake exacts toll on antiquities

■ Officials ignored the recommendations of a British study which if implemented would have saved many lives and limited the devastation caused by Monday's disaster

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO AND DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

EARTHQUAKE damage to Egypt's ancient monuments was much more serious than originally assessed, and the damage to landmarks such as the Sphinx is expected to take up to a year to repair.

Although the three main pyramids at Giza remained relatively unscathed, it was disclosed yesterday that seven small stones fell from the step pyramid at Saqqara. A stone slab also fell near the entrance of the third and smallest pyramid at Giza, while part of the roof of the Qom Ombo temple at Aswan collapsed.

At Saladin's imposing citadel on the outskirts of Cairo — where for nearly 700 years all Egypt's rulers lived, held court, dispensed justice and received ambassadors — experts have reported damage to the Hall of Justice, the el-Gawhara palace and the mint.

Across the city, in the overcrowded Egyptian Museum, home of the treasures of Tutankhamun, cracks have appeared in the roof, increasing the chances of pollution. The base of the statue of Amenhotep III which guards the entrance was also cracked. Worst hit by Monday's tremor were the historic Islamic monuments which distinguished the skyline of old Cairo. According to the latest figures, 60 of the 500 Islamic monuments in Cairo were damaged. Half of these are in a critical condition and in need of scaffold support.

Among the casualties was Egypt's oldest mosque built by Amr ibn al-As, a general who conquered the country in the



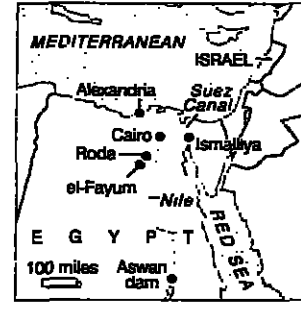
Cash among the ruins: a Cairo rescue worker, searching the rubble of a block of flats devastated by Monday's earthquake, hands over banknotes from a \$68,000 horde discovered yesterday to a colleague

Mourning villagers retreat to fields

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN RODA, EGYPT

WERE it not for the clusters of women dressed in black to mourn their recent dead, a first-time visitor to this remote hamlet might be forgiven for assuming that the villagers were holding an enormous jumble sale.

Along Roda's dusty main street the entire contents of the rickety mud-brick houses were on display as whole families stripped their homes of belongings and set off into open spaces fearing another earthquake. "You can't expect me to live here anymore, we are leaving for good," said Gamil Mtias, wrestling with a gaudy reproduction antique sofa as his brother cleared the house of anything he could carry, including doors. An



inspection of the two-storey building confirmed that the family of ten would be prudent to find other accommodation, even if only in a field. The roof in one room had caved in and the sitting room floor was littered with bricks.

Hardly a single home has been left unscathed at Roda, the worst affected village among the scores of rural communities near the oasis town of el-Fayum, 50 miles southwest of Cairo. It was nearest the epicentre of Monday's earthquake and absorbed the brunt of the shock. Doctors at el-Fayum hospital said 44 people died and 107 were injured in the area. Seven of the fatalities were from Roda. "A whole family of

has done little or nothing to help the villagers, most of whom are impoverished farmers with no resources to build new and stronger homes.

Residents complained that nobody had assessed the damage to property and no compensation had been paid to victims' families. Nothing had been done to help a boy, 10, orphaned in the earthquake, who was nursing a swollen and untreated arm.

"I went to el-Fayum to ask the government to send someone to come and help us, to pay compensation or rebuild the homes, but I was simply told to go from one office to another, nobody wants to hear our problems," said Muhammad Fatah. His angry outburst drew approving nods from his fellow villagers.

Way opens for new inquest on Biko

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN IN CAPE TOWN

A CHANCE to reopen the inquest into the death of Steve Biko, the Black Consciousness leader beaten to death in a police cell seven years ago, has been given with the introduction of an inquests amendment bill into the South African parliament.

The proposed legislation would allow inquests which have been conducted by magistrates to be reopened with judges presiding. Danie Schutte, the deputy minister of justice who introduced the second reading, said the bill was further proof of the government's sincere commitment to open and honest government.

Even the opposition praised Pretoria's dedication to "glasnost".

The measure has been brought in primarily to deal with the case of Matthew Goniwe, a black activist killed in 1985. The name of General C. P. "Stoffel" van der Westhuizen, the head of military intelligence, was on a signal published a few months ago calling for the "permanent removal from society" of Goniwe and his colleagues shortly before they were killed.

A renewed enquiry conducted by Michael Hodgson, the deputy attorney general of the Eastern Cape, into the murders has been completed, but he said yesterday there was not enough evidence to prosecute anyone. In order to stimulate further evidence a reward of 200,000 rand (\$40,000) has been offered.

A general indemnity bill is to be published today, enabling the government to grant amnesty to those who have committed political crimes and crimes in defence of apartheid. The ANC has opposed a general amnesty, insisting that "criminals cannot pardon themselves".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arabs stab kibbutz Jew to death

Jerusalem: Arabs stabbed to death a Jew in northern Israel while Palestinians again clashed with police in Jerusalem over the death of a hunger striker.

Several men stabbed Israel Avraham, 32, in a field of Moshav Perazon, a collective farm two miles north of the West Bank town of Jenin, police said. He was the 99th Israeli killed by Arabs since the outbreak of the Palestinian revolt in 1987. Israelis have killed 943 Palestinians.

Youths stoned paramilitary police and burnt tyres for a second day in villages around Arab east Jerusalem in protest at the death of Hussein Asad Obeidat, a hunger-striking prisoner. (Reuters)

Tamils kill 161

Colombo: Tamil insurgents killed 161 Muslims in Medirigiriya, eastern Sri Lanka, in one of the worst massacres in the island's recent history. Witnesses said 500 Tamil Tigers shot and hacked villagers to death, including 30 children, in a three-hour rampage.

Attack repulsed

Moravia: Shelling and gunfire erupted in the Liberian capital and the interim government said West African peacekeeping troops had repulsed an attack by the rebel forces of Charles Taylor and Prince Johnson. (Reuters)

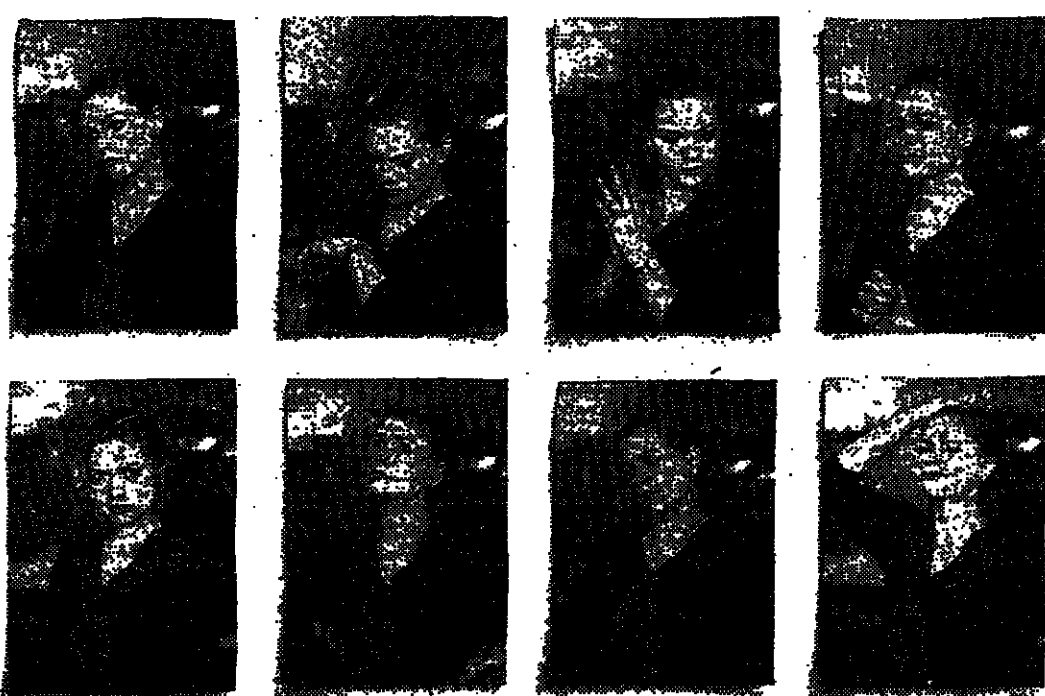
King's move

Amman: Jordan's relations with Egypt, strained since the Gulf war, are set to improve after a surprise visit to Egypt by King Hussein, diplomats said. The king flew to President Mubarak to offer his condolences to victims of the Cairo earthquake. (Reuters)

Closet artists

Brussels: Three Belgian art students did such a good job at painting graffiti on toilets in Ghent that the city council has asked them to paint all of its 50 public toilets. The council will pay for the paint. (Reuters)

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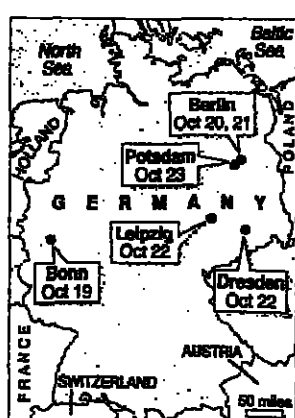
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Dousing the flames of Dresden



Next week the Queen, in the former East Germany, makes a poignant visit to Dresden, says Alan Hamilton

Weeds sprout among the broken baroque linets of the Dresden Academy of Performing Arts, in its late 18th-century heyday a magnet for every musician and artist of note in Europe. The pile of rubble that was the Church of Our Lady still lies untouched from the night 47 years ago that Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris ordered the raining down of a terrible destruction on the city once known as the Florence of the Elbe.

Yet suddenly everywhere in Dresden there is scaffolding around each soaring dome and spire. There is even talk, strongly opposed in some quarters, of rebuilding "Our Lady". Weather vane and golden balls gleam on the skyline again; after four decades under the dead hand of East Germany, Dresden has rediscovered civic pride and is beginning to restore those few fragments of the old city that the bombers missed.

A rising new generation is less interested in memories. Every Friday at noon in the Kreuzkirche, another of the city's great Saxon churches that partially withstood the firestorm, a priest says a prayer for reconciliation before a cross fashioned from nails taken from the bombed roof of Coventry Cathedral.

But the grandest act of hatching-burying will occur next Thursday, when the Queen attends a service in the Kreuzkirche with the bishops and choirs of Coventry and Dresden. The Duke of Edinburgh will read the lesson, in German. A similar joint service was held in 1985, on the 40th anniversary of one of the

most intense and controversial raids of the war which killed, at a conservative estimate, 35,000 civilians in one night.

But then there was no royal presence. Dresden still lay within the communist east, an empire which the Queen never designed to bless with her presence.

Michael Muller, priest-in-charge at the Kreuzkirche, has been overwhelmed by the demand for tickets for the service. "For the younger people, the war is no topic," Dr Muller said. "But for those who remember it, you still have to do something for them. The expectations for the queen's visit are very high."

The recent unveiling in London of a statue to Sir Arthur, the head of Bomber Command, caused puzzlement, dismay and hurt in Dresden. Dr Muller confessed. Hearing about the statue, brought back memories for many people who had managed to forget the war, and it made them question whether such a statue was necessary.

Other Dresdeners admit to a degree of bad feeling about the Harris statue, at St Clement Dane's, Michael Sagurna, of the Saxony provincial government, admits there is still much resentment about the raid. "But that resentment is closely linked with the feeling that ultimate guilt lies on the German side," he says. Local government and security officials are well-aware that neo-Nazi groups are being urged to stage a demonstration during the Queen's hour-long visit, supposedly to protest at her manifest support for the Harris statue. Police, however, are ready for them, having taken video films of all

'To all Germans, she is the queen of queens'



The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on the western side of the Berlin Wall in 1965. Next week they visit former communist ground for the first time

the participants in a rally two weeks ago at which 3,000 were expected but only 600 turned up.

But the primary purpose of the Queen's state visit to Germany, the third of her reign, is not to offer reconciliation for war but to celebrate the country's unification. When she walks through the Brandenburg gate with Richard von Weizsäcker, the German federal president, it will be her first football on former communist territory.

Besides Dresden, the queen will visit Leipzig, cradle of the uprising which led to the breaching of the Berlin wall, and the fall of the German Democratic Republic.

The genesis of the peaceful revolution was a series of demonstrations in the city's Karl Marx Platz, now renamed Augustus Platz, culminating in a major demonstration by a crowd of 80,000 on October 9 1989, against which the police and the hated

Stasi secret police singularly failed to move.

She will also visit Potsdam, seat of the Prussian monarchy, where she will lay a wreath on the tomb of Queen Victoria's eldest daughter, Victoria, the wife of emperor Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia.

British and German officials involved with the visit are playing down recent differences over Maastricht and the exchange rate mechanism, and are emphasising the long-term partnership.

Germany is Britain's largest single trading partner, taking more than £14 billion in British exports in 1990, or 14 per cent of the total.

The Queen has made 1992 her year of Europe, having already made visits to France, Malta and the European parliament at Strasbourg, on each occasion echoing in her speeches John Major's stated commitment to the EC in spite of recent difficulties. Her three major speeches in Germany will be studied for any indication of a change in stance.

But she is more than a political symbol. Her two previous state visits to Germany, in 1965 and 1978, drew enormous and enthusiastic crowds, and this one is expected to match them. One official of the Saxony state government expressed the deeper appeal: "To all Germans, she is the queen of queens. To the people of the former East, who lived under 40 years of drabness, she is a figure of light, colour and hope."

SIDE LINE

From the mouths of babes Will child's talk by ad men make us save energy?

In the past the government only asked us to save energy when Opec got stroppy or miners went on strike. Now, whether or not the miners strike, we are about to experience a £2 million press and television campaign promoting energy efficiency.

Next week, a 30-second advertisement, from the agency Collett Dickinson Pearce & Partners, will appear on our screens as part of Helping the Earth Begins at Home week. Over cartoon drawings, a child recites a poem. It starts like this:

"Every time you turn on a light
Or turn the heating up at night
Or you boil the kettle for your tea
Or run a bath, you use energy"

The press advert has this couplet - in faded child's handwriting: "Lining your loft before it gets cold. Could stop global warming from taking a hold." The picture shows a monkey sitting in a tree, above a roll of loft insulation. The campaign is very post-Rio and wholesome, but, above all, creative.

The backdrop to the campaign, explains Andrew Warren, the director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy, is that over the past two years spending on insulation and heating controls has dropped by 28 per cent. The interesting thing about the adverts is that we are not only being addressed by a child, we are being addressed as children, because in the past, when we have been addressed as adults, we have not listened.

NICHOLAS LEZARD

Voters keep an eye on the ball

When American politics comes head to head with a world series baseball game, television programmers feel there is only going to be one winner

When two such big guns of American culture as a presidential election and a baseball world series clash, which will win? The answer for America's largest prime time television network this week was easy: baseball comes first.

Last Sunday, CBS, once known for its news, opted to leave its famed political anchor, Dan Rather, in the dugout during the first presidential debate, in order to carry a baseball game between the Oakland A's and the Toronto Blue Jays.

By Tuesday, the CBS decision had been widely criticised. And so had the decision to force Americans to choose between their beloved baseball and the debates. In yet another attempt to curry favour with the voters, George Bush called Dan Quayle, the vice president, after his debate with Al Gore, the Democratic challenger, and congratulated him on hitting a "home run".

This election has been filled with squeeze plays, curve balls, pinch hitting and both candidates trying to get to first base. "I think, after being 0 for 2 in a four-game series," said Dennis E. Eckart, a congressman, after the vice presidential debate, "the Republicans have to wonder what is left for them to salvage... Al Gore hit several pitches out of the park, and Dan Quayle was lucky to foul off a few. He looked good swinging, but he still didn't get any hits."

Baseball has always played a central role in American political life. Presidents and vice presidents get VIP status whenever they go to games and usually have the honour of throwing out the first ball onto the field.

"All presidents tend to pretend they're baseball fans, even if they're not," Donald Honig, a baseball historian, says. "Presidents want to stay popular."

Richard Nixon had a better than average working knowledge of the game. He was known to make up all-star teams of the best players over the years, a pastime enjoyed by many fans. President Eisenhower also enjoyed baseball, knew some of the professional players personally, and played while studying at West Point. Mr Bush is also no stranger to cleats, gloves and spit balls: he played first base and captained his team while at Yale University.



Making his play: President Bush, baseball fan

Mr Bush may have been a good captain back then but more recently when it came to advising his election team about negotiating the terms of the debates, his tendency was to drag things out into overtime until the very last inning. Jockeying for venue, place and position by the Bush camp meant a delay in the debates that brought them up against that most hallowed of American sporting events, the world series, which begins this Saturday. "Anything you do in September and October, you run into conflict," says Hal Bruno, political director of ABC News and moderator for the vice presidential debates last Tuesday.

Programme scheduling is tricky to

begin with, Mr Bruno says, and it becomes even more difficult when Jewish holidays, pro football games, the games leading up to the world series and the series itself all compete for America's prime time slots.

"This year with the stalling we got ourselves into a trap. If the Bush campaign had accepted the original dates proposed we would have had more time to air them - they could have been on prime time in every part of the country."

As it was, CBS decided that the network's contractual obligation - worth more than \$1 billion - to major league baseball to carry the playoff games of the world series was more important than its commitment as a news organisation to carry the debate.

CBS has paid dearly for its choice, both in terms of ratings and financial losses. A measly 17.4 million American viewers tuned into the baseball game on Sunday night, as opposed to estimates of the 81-85 million people who watched the three presidential candidates on the other networks and cable. Approximately 76 million viewers saw the vice presidential debate.

The conflict in programming affected last night's second presidential debate for CBS as well, though this time the network devised a way to get both debaters and batters onto the air by allowing two possible starting times for the debate, depending on whether or not a tiebreaker was needed between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Oakland A's.

Given the choice of watching the seventh game of the American League championship series or the second of three presidential debates, sadly, but understandably, many Americans, especially male Americans, would pick the ballgame," says Mike Ruby, a Chicago Cubs fan, and co-editor of U.S. News & World Report.

Luckily for American voters, 1992 is proving to be one of the more interesting political games ever played out. With "Slick Willie" on third, President Bush attempting to steal second, and Citizen Perot up to bat, voters will have to keep their eye firmly on the ball.

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The amoral majority of the middle classes

Sir Peter Imbert, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, is angry with ordinary people for breaking the law when it suits

When I last saw Sir Peter Imbert I found myself telling him about my traffic offence. It is like meeting a doctor at dinner and asking for an instant diagnosis. "Sir Peter, I am a law-abiding person, but when I unavoidably drove in a bus lane yesterday for a few yards, I was stopped and held up for 20 minutes and fined £12..." Sir Peter listens attentively. Never mind that the policeman might have been better employed elsewhere catching muggers. His question is: "Was the officer courteous to you?"

Since he turned the Metropolitan Police from a force into a service, and is innately courteous himself, his priority is to make the police more polite.

But in a speech this week he confronted the link between the law and private morality, which begins in our cars. Here our ambivalent attitudes make Middle England into a Muddled England, wanting the police to be on the spot when a burglar strikes, but somewhere else when we leave a party and drive off home...

Middle Englanders, Sir Peter told an international police conference, "have little contact with the police unless they commit a motoring offence or are burgled. They live, shop and socialise in relatively comfortable surroundings, travelling in cars, mostly sanitised from the impact of crime, which is experienced vicariously through the media... They may be content to break the law when convenient: ignoring a motorway speed limit; walking the narrow line between tax evasion and avoidance..."

When the Home Secretary, Kenneth Clarke, said "the solid citizens of Middle England" would be more inclined to support the police if they were better treated by them, Sir Peter agreed: hence the courtesy pledge in the Met's "Statement of Our Common Purpose and Values" framed on his wall. But there must be no immunity for Middle Englanders. We cannot expect the police to blink when we break the speed limit, if we wish them to catch the speeding driver who kills a pedestrian. Or do we wish to change the rules and withdraw speeding from the list of offences? If our values have changed, we must say so. Society is still unsure, he says, how much it wants the police to do.

Sir Peter is a Middle Englander himself. Driving through his clogged suburban high street, he thinks the parked cars should be towed away or clamped; but on his day off he too might wish he could stop there for just two minutes to go to the cashpoint. (He doesn't of

course. But a parking fine he got while on holiday in Tuscany this year is framed on his office window sill.)

The superhuman task of policing London, compounded now by daily bomb alerts, was almost the death of him; after his heart attack he lost one and a half stone, and he is no longer portly or jowly. Now that it is almost time for him to spend more time with his golf clubs, he is leaving the job in a mood of gloom. He wants the public to say what they want, and for them to know what, in the criminal justice system, the police are up against.

Before he became Commis-

sioner, Peter Imbert was best known for two things: in 1975 he negotiated with the IRA terrorists cornered for a week in the Balcombe Street siege. Then, as Chief Constable of Thames Valley police, he boldly let in the television cameras for Roger Graef's fly-on-the-wall series, *Police*. It was the shaming episode showing unsympathetic detectives ineptly interviewing a rape victim that changed the whole approach to rape victims for ever.

He is a homespun fellow of simple faith who shares the Archbishop of Canterbury's views about the privatisation of morality, a society of self-absorbed individuals with a lack of common purpose. The night before he joined the police in 1953, his mother took him to church to pray. He was the fifth of seven children of a bankrupt farmer in Romney, Kent, a "village urchin"; his equivalent today would be a potential hooligan. But in the 1930s, as he likes to remind us, society had a cohesion, and a moral code, and aspirations. The bright ones went, as he did, on a scholarship to the grammar school, and became home-owning Middle Englanders.

"I don't believe that poverty and deprivation are wholly an excuse for crime. They are only one factor, not just because they haven't got the material goods, but because they've got too much time. I often quote my dear old mother about the devil finding work for idle hands to do. In the 1930s, my father was out of work like thousands of others. Why wasn't there the same crime level then? Because we had a different social fabric and structure. There wasn't the privatisation of values."

"People criticised me for attributing the growth of crime in part to the marginalisation of some elements in society in my last annual report." (He wrote: "The notion that there is a link between crime and social deprivation is a compelling one. There is a need to offer hope to those most disadvantaged if we are to see any reduction in crime levels.") He points out that the map of crime fits almost exactly over the map of economic disadvantage. "And the question is, how do you impact that?"

He has no answer, and what is this verb "to impact" anyway? And it is increasingly hard to see how his idea of social cohesion can be revived when economic hopelessness spreads daily. What social cohesion will be left in the dead pit villages? Surely it is just whistling in the wind to expect society to change back?

"No I don't think so," he says. "I'm ever an optimist. When I meet young people in universities and colleges, I think perhaps we don't deserve to have such a high quality of young person. They've got a real social conscience — about unleaded petrol, and the starving in Somalia. They give me heart. There is a great body of good among the young. Only the minority are the problem."

Ah, the minority. Like the six bad boys we heard about this week, the despair of the Northumbrian police, arrested 265 times for 550 burglaries, car thefts and criminal damage. The wantonly destructive juveniles contemptuous of all discipline or authority, re-offending without a qualm while the police remain helpless.

Sir Peter believes education to be the kernel of the problem. "We must educate them about responsibilities, and the way we should treat our fellow men and women. I don't think that's pie in the sky, it's a nitty we've got to grasp, our insurance for the future. There may be a whole generation without values. It's quite wrong to say don't worry, they'll grow out of it. While they're in that age bracket they spread unhappiness and generate fear. And their lives will reflect those wasted years for ever."

He himself did nothing much at



Force for change: Sir Peter Imbert standing before a portrait of his forerunner Sir Robert Peel, founder of the Metropolitan Police

school. "I hadn't yet joined the learning culture. I obviously had some innate intelligence. But university degrees are a bit like adultery: you may not want to get involved in that sort of thing, but you don't want to be thought incapable."

I had a letter from a London police inspector recently, about people suffering "continuous bullying and harassment by young people... People on estates whose lives are blighted by the failings of a legal system which is impotent to provide remedies, women living in fear and torment behind the front doors of their flats." But the formalities of the criminal justice system meant it had no impact on the offending young.

Sir Peter said he understood the inspector's frustration. He said we must plan now to protect people from the next generation of young thugs, in ten or 15 years' time. How? "We can save ourselves from them and save them from themselves, if we are prepared to devote money, time and resources to giving them a higher set of values and showing them that they cannot get away with totally unacceptable behaviour. We are all touched by it:

a million crimes a year in London, committed by a minority, which will grow unless we deal more firmly with it." But for Heaven's sake, this is a failure of parenthood in the long term. What Imbert and Co. have to find are short-term remedies. The "rosily retrospective" image of Mr Plod "lightly clipping juvenile miscreants round the ear" was always a myth, he says, "whereas the view society has of us now is firmly rooted in reality."

This is largely due to the proliferation of police programmes on television, about which he has mixed feelings. "I rather like *The Bill*," he said. "My only objection is the level of verbal acrimony between people. But that play *Black and Blue* by G.F. Newman, peddling an anti-police ideology, was quite ludicrous. We do have racist police officers. But they are pinpricks in a great ocean now." He had written "in bitter disappointment" to the director-general of the BBC about it, pointing out the growing percentage of black station staff, not just canteen assistants, but three black chief inspectors. (He has "six black faces" in his own family by marriage.)

Sir Peter's gentle tone does not disguise a weariness about the

public's focusing more on miscarriages of justice than on the police's difficulties in securing convictions. Nothing less than reform of the entire British justice system, from adversarial to an inquisitorial pre-trial procedure along French lines, will effect any real change in his view.

He cites John Freeman's *Face to Face* interview with the late advocate Lord Birkett to show what the police are up against in court.

Freeman: Would you think it was your duty as counsel to use every possible trick within the law to get a man acquitted?

Birkett: Well, I don't like the word "trick".

Freeman: Have you ever got a man — or a woman — acquitted on a murder charge whom you believed in your heart to be guilty?

Birkett: Yes.

Freeman: Any regrets about that?

Birkett: No.

On the Jimmy Young show on Wednesday, Sir Peter reminded listeners of the Platonic view that confrontation of opposites is the best way to arrive at the truth. He disagrees. "It means that from the moment the policeman lays his hand on the collar of someone, it brings in conflict and exaggeration.

It brings in an attitude of 'we're fighting our corner and we're not going to lose'.

"Courtroom drama is exciting stuff, but the opposing counsels' gladiatorial combat, their verbal ability to play on jurors' minds, sometimes amounts to thespian trickery."

The Met code promises "to respond to well-founded criticism with a willingness to change". Their new "sector policing" system invites each neighbourhood to state what the police should be most concerned with, drugs or prostitution or youths hanging around the street. So Sir Peter hands over to us the conundrum of deciding whether we have laws that all of us want to abide by and a legal system we can trust. Has anything changed for the better since he became commissioner in 1987?

"Yes. The quality of police officers we now have. Who would have thought, ten years ago, that the Met would be the market leaders, the Marks & Spencer of public service? The quality of people coming into the service now is higher than ever. A degree in psychology is not unusual. I don't think I would get in now, if I were to apply."

On the street where they really live

Why fans of *Coronation Street* are unlikely to be turned off by the comments of Lord Rees-Mogg

The chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council (BSC), a former Editor of this newspaper and a chalk-striped pillar of society is, on balance, a good thing. While the cynics assumed that Lord Rees-Mogg would use his position

at the BSC to become Lord High Executioner of television's more maverick elements, he has confounded them by remaining steadfastly liberal. Despite the hundreds of complaints received about sex, violence and bad language on TV, the BSC has

pronounced guilty verdicts in fewer than 30 cases.

Now, however, Lord Rees-Mogg has said something very silly. In his remarks at the launch of a worthy BSC paper on the portrayal of ethnic minorities on television, he castigated the ITV soap opera *Coronation Street* for not having enough blacks and Asians in it, saying that he hoped it would "one day be visited by the type of people who actually live there".

He compared *Coronation Street* unfavourably with the BBC soap *EastEnders*, which uses a wide range of black and Asian characters. This of course misses the point. *EastEnders* is set in an area of east London, where different races have been jostling for space for centuries, whereas if Lord Rees-Mogg ever went to Salford (upon which *Coronation Street* is based), he would discover that the Street is in fact visited by the type of people who actually live there, because according to Greater Manchester Council, 97.8 per cent of Salford residents are white and working-class.

He might also do himself a favour by watching *Coronation Street* regularly for a couple of months and discovering that it mirrors life in those mean streets now as accurately as it did three decades ago — something Lord Rees-Mogg seems not to have noticed, judging by his accusation that *Coronation Street* is no more than an exercise in nostalgia which has never left the Macmillan era.

Perhaps he remembers the old ladies in hats and wrinkled stockings who ripped out



Writ large: Mavis and Derek Wilton, stars of the Street and big on Tupperware

from the mission hall for a bottle of stout in the snug bar of the Rovers Return? Perhaps he is thinking of the days when Arthur Lowe was the local draper and Elsie Tanner was getting off with Yanks left over from the war?

But these people have vanished from the Street as surely as they have vanished from real life. There is unemployment and divorce in *Coronation Street* now. There are single parents and there is sex. Back in the Macmillan years, it would have been unthinkable for Bert Lynch to stay on at the Rovers when her husband took a job down south, and the writers would not even have known that innocent Mavis could go to what she thought was a Tupperware party, only to find herself looking at sex aids and a catalogue for crochets and knickers.

These storylines, potty as some of them are, are part of the reason that *Coronation Street* now numbers a vast and growing army of people under 30 in its 18 million-strong audience. I can personally think of three friends — none of them old enough to remember the Macmillan era and who certainly have no desire to live in it — who simply make themselves unavailable between 7.30 and 8pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

And they do not draw the curtains or turn on the answering machine for the duration of *EastEnders*, about which Lord Rees-Mogg was so complimentary. The reasons for this are many, but in some ways they hinge on exactly the factor Rees-Mogg finds so attractive about the Cockney carry-on.

EastEnders does, for sure, feature blacks and Asians, but it is difficult to believe that the producers are not working from a checklist of ethnic types and issues which have to be shoehorned into the plot at regular intervals in order to keep the soap opera socially credible. That it is, but at the cost of the pace and humour of which *Coronation Street* has always been properly proud.

The millions who watch *Coronation Street* — and who will continue to do so despite Lord Rees-Mogg — know real life when they see it even if it is heightened and sometimes lightened in the most confident and accomplished soap opera television has ever seen.

PATRICK STODDART

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Simon Jenkins

Some may jeer at the restored Sistine chapel, but it has brought Michelangelo's masterpiece alive

What is the world's greatest work of art? "The ceiling of the Sistine chapel." "That old chestnut? Can't you do better than that?"

Once perhaps, but not any longer. I last saw the ceiling ten years ago in its uncleaned state. It was a disappointment. Michelangelo's vast nudes seemed to acknowledge the libel that "when you've seen one you've seen them all." They were flat and livid, their sculptural potency drained by age. Like tired actors they ran through the Creation and the Fall of Man without conviction, lost in a mauve-brown haze above an audience of bored tourists. There was more life in the colour slides on every Vatican corner.

So I was almost ready to defy the judgment of centuries and give the laurel to Raphael in the stupendous rivalry that took place in this foetid corner of the Vatican from 1508 to 1512. For four years Michelangelo "pointed his beard to Heaven" behind the Sistine's locked doors, while Raphael and his cronies competed upstairs on the walls of Julius II's papal apartments. When I first saw both creations, I found the Raphael stanze more alive, more relevant, more fun. The Sistine was steeped in gloom. Not any more. I have never witnessed the restorer's art more brilliantly vindicated. Michelangelo has re-emerged from his scaffolding, in Lord Clark's splendidly sweeping phrase, "as one of the great events in the history of western man". Critics say that the cleaning was a \$3 million ploy by Nippon television to secure a commercial toehold in Italy. If so, good luck to them. They deserve the Julius II award for daring sponsorship.

The Vatican makes us work hard for our pleasure. Visitors must still proceed in a crowded crocodile along almost a mile of corridors to reach the Sistine. The chapel itself is packed. The attempts of the guards to maintain silence, by shouting, clapping and a loudspeaker, are ludicrous, more destructive of concentration than the hubbub itself. Had Michelangelo today sought models for the Fall of Man he need only look down on the chaos below; 20,000 of the world's most determined rubberneckers traipse through in a day.

But forget all this. The cleaning has lifted the ceiling once more to the sublime. Michelangelo's "soul of man, still clothed in flesh, rising ever and again to God." Raphael presented the triumph of reason in the School of Athens as separate from the triumph of religion. Michelangelo synthesised them: the creation of the sun and moon, the expulsion from Paradise, Noah's flood (the ark at last visible), are framed alternately by biblical and classical characters, prophets and sibyls, and by the great classical nudes. The removal of centuries of candle smoke and grease, the elimination of cracks, the emergence of colour rather than dull tone, do more than re-establish the work's mannerist credentials. The electric charge can again be sensed in its brief passage from the finger of God to that of Man. Eyes have regained their pupils, terrified, distracted or ecstatic. Jonah leans back from view, a brilliant illusion of terror. Jeremiah's grim thoughts are palpable. Michelangelo was a sculptor and his painting needs the vivid light and shade of this restoration.

Critics have dismissed the new ceiling as "Benetton Michelangelo". They say the removal of the varnish has destroyed part of the artist's own work. They call it reproto, yet another high-tech interference of the sort that has ruined many of Italy's masterpieces. The battle between the Vatican's chief restorer, Gianluigi Colalucci, and such critics as the American, James Beck, has been worthy of the atmosphere back in 1512. "The alternation of merciless pressure and unmeasured vituperation with the frankest indulgence and kindness," was Burckhardt's description of the stormy relationship between Julius and the titans of his court, Bramante, Raphael, Michelangelo.

The critics are wrong. Archaeologists may delight in the dirt of centuries, but Michelangelo must surely be on Colalucci's side. I cannot believe an artist to whom painting was "a music and a melody which intellect only can appreciate and with great difficulty" would object to later generations wanting to keep his melody in tune. The High Renaissance sought ever more dazzling ways of making art dramatic, forceful, immediate to the eye. The Sistine ceiling was its apotheosis.

Raphael once found a key to the chapel, sneaked in to gaze at his rival's unfinished work — and marvelled. Now that the ceiling has "settled in", might not Colalucci's critics do the same? They might at least spare other sponsors from the scorn visited on Nippon Television. For Rome desperately needs such sponsors. Painfully slow restoration has already revealed the Palazzo Borghese, San Andrea della Valle, Borromini's St Ivo and the Palazzo Madama and, most spectacular of all, the Trevi fountain. That must leave 1,000 more monuments that would be treasured jewels in any other nation's collection.

Rome is the most precious city in the world. Here is a public gallery of architecture and all the arts, piazzas, palaces, bridges, churches, ruins, gardens, villas, some grandly displayed, most in casual juxtaposition, teasing the eye with baroque surprise. What was once black and dull red or ochre is emerging a delicious palette of pinks, golds, greens, honey and coffee colours. The clearing of Rome must be the noblest challenge facing Europe from now into the next century. But it is taking too long. When Michelangelo sought praise for his ceiling, Julius would only shout at him. "When is it finished, when is it finished?" terrified he might die too soon. He was just in time. Rome may not be restored in a day, but it badly needs a Julius just now.

We must cut out the nonsense and assert national identity if the EC is to survive, writes Hugh Thomas

Making the best of Europe

Birmingham was the home of Joseph Chamberlain. That should remind the European leaders of another scheme for the future of the British economy, imperial preference. Birmingham is also known for clear and unemotional thinking: a commodity especially now required to disentangle the issues implicit in what seems to have become the main item on the agenda of this summit, namely subsidiarity.

The word is a disagreeable one to English ears. The knowledge that it derives from a papal usage of the 1930s increases our natural suspicion. We are coming gradually to know that the word suggests that nothing should be done at a major level of government which can be equally well, or better, done at a minor one. But since the English language seems now to be one of our few remaining national assets, why do we, of all people, need a new word to express a political concept? Yet, in the past, we have come to terms with all kinds of curious foreign words, such as "liberal", "communist", even "police", most of them born in the French revolution-ary era.

The word "subsidiarity" has come to express in Europe a concept so important that nearly all the troubles of the European Community spring from uncertainty as to where the line is drawn, or will be drawn, between the activities of the European community acting as a single body, and the actions of the nations, acting by themselves.

Anxiety lest the Community was interfering improperly, in the spheres of health and education, led to two of the black spots during Mrs Thatcher's administration, the little matter of warnings recommended by the Commission to be placed on cigarette packets and then the help proposed for the teaching of foreign languages.

The apparent interest of bureaucrats in Brussels in things so fidely as the size of apples has been as irritating as, to the countries concerned, the discussion in Strasbourg of bull-fights, or pigeon shooting in the Auvergne.

This fact is now understood in all the critical agencies of the European Community. That is why the matter is going to receive such attention in Birmingham. That explains too why Otto von Habsburg, talking as an MEP, suggested a few years ago a new treaty on the subject. That would be better than a series of declarations, however admirable. It would give a much-to-be-desired framework of law to these ideas. But the question is whether even a treaty on subsidiarity is enough. For the European Community to survive, expand, and prosper, clear dividing lines are needed to make possible, first, decisions and action in common where the common interest is involved; second, equally important, the preservation of a Europe of real diversity. Something on these lines is particularly required now because of the way that the Community and the Commission were originally conceived. Jean Monnet in his memoirs

suggests that, though his long-term aim was a federal Europe, he realised that that aim would not be achieved by trying to persuade nation states to surrender their sovereignty. On the contrary, everything would be done in a piecemeal way. One would harmonise where one could. Gradually the *acquis* of European achievements would build up. European law would be accepted by national lawmakers. Almost without noticing it, nations long divided by rivalries and hatreds, would come to think in common. This original approach has worked extraordinarily well. The Community has been in consequence the most successful of international enterprises since the war. In contrast, the United Nations was too ambitious for its time, the Commonwealth has seemed a mere facade to protect the British from realising that they had lost their empire, and Nato, despite its grand first Articles, was never more than a military alliance.

All the same, success usually carries seeds of decay. The Treaty of Rome and the Single European Act gave the Commission theoretically good reasons for interesting itself in almost every sphere of national life. Even the harmonisation of the size of toothbrushes could be justified. In ideal circumstances, therefore, the leaders of the Community would now be counting the blessings already received, and be setting down to draw up a federal constitution. The word is politically unacceptable. Mr Major came back from the battle of Maastricht with, in his sheaf of victories, the withdrawal by the other 11 nations of any mention of "federal purpose". In its place, he secured the repetition of the old phrase, "ever closer union", to which we have been committed ever since we adopted the Treaty of Rome in 1972. In fact, what Europe needs at the moment is not "ever closer union," which threatens ex-

cessive harmonisation, but a federal purpose which would guard against it, stating absolutely, in a binding document comparable to the constitution of the United States, that (for instance), health, education, the justice system, and other sacred things should be permanently in the national sphere.

When in 1837, after a rebellion in Canada, Britain was faced with a crisis over how to manage distant colonies which desired self-government the then prime minister, Lord Melbourne, asked Lord Durham to write a report, whose publication in 1840 led to the idea of dominion status.

Mr Major, the present President of the European Council, could do worse than to ask a modern Lord Durham to write a similar report on the subject of the future of the European Community. This might be the first of a series of new federalist papers, and might even find a substitute for the much misunderstood word "federal".

Lord Thomas's book *Ever Closer Union: Britain's Destiny in Europe* is published by Hutchinson, £7.99.

How Scargill killed King Coal

Cecil Parkinson explains the sad decline of a once great industry

The British people have always had a special place in their hearts for coal miners. Although over the years the National Union of Mineworkers has sorely tested our patience, deep down we have respected and admired those men who daily journey miles below the ground in order to bring us coal. After British Coal's announcement on Tuesday that 31 pits are to close and that 30,000 miners will lose their jobs, there was bound to be a huge upsurge of sympathy. The job losses are terrible and the government is right to make generous help available.

As secretary of state for energy in 1988, I announced that the coal industry would be privatised. Nothing that has happened this week makes me regret that decision. Indeed, managers and miners should be allowed to take over the running of some of the mines marked for closure. They might be better able to exploit market opportunities than their bosses in the state sector were.

Although we should have sympathy for those who are to lose their jobs, it is right to remember that the miners have contributed to their own disaster. During the winter of 1971 and early 1972 the NUM threatened to bring down Edward Heath's government. In February 1974 they succeeded. In 1981 Mrs Thatcher backed away from a confrontation with the NUM because there was not enough coal at the power stations to ensure that a prolonged strike could be resisted. By 1984 coal stocks had been built up and the government was able to see out a bitter year-long dispute. The cost of the strike to the taxpayer was high. But the cost to coal mining was even greater.

Arthur Scargill's decision to force a strike in 1984 meant that sooner or later the job losses and pit closures announced this week became inevitable. For the key lesson of the 1984-85 strike was that the electricity industry could never again afford to be so overwhelmingly reliant on just one source of supply. The cost of maintaining stocks of coal at power stations so that the lights could be kept on, if ever again the miners chose to take on the government, has been enormous. The taxpayer could not afford it, nor can the privatised electricity generators. The case



Digging for Britain: but a series of national strikes meant ministers had to find alternative sources of energy

for nuclear electricity was also given a boost by the miners.

But British Coal's announcement cannot be blamed on the NUM alone. The simple fact is that coal in Britain is difficult to mine. It is found in narrow seams, deep underground and as a consequence is expensive.

There is another factor which the generators have had to take into account and which will increase the cost of using coal in the years ahead. Coal burning power stations have a very

damaging effect upon the environment and it is likely that legislation over the coming decades will make the burning of coal much more expensive. Not only do coal-fired power stations produce sulphur dioxide — a major contributor to acid rain — they also release the "greenhouse gas" carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Although sulphur dioxide emissions can be reduced, this is an expensive process, which also reduces the efficiency of the power stations.

Less efficient power stations would burn more coal and thereby increase CO₂ emissions. It is misleading to compare the costs of old, heavily polluting power stations with those of new gas stations. The former have a very limited life expectancy.

For all these reasons, the electricity generators have decided to reduce their reliance on coal and instead are investing in gas-fired stations. In the private sector they are free to make that choice and they are infinitely

better qualified to make it than politicians, academics or leader writers. In the private sector, the government has no more right to intervene to force the generators to change their minds, than it has to intervene in the decision making of ICI or News International. To criticise the government for a commercial decision taken by private companies is wrongheaded.

Critics have claimed that electricity privatisation is to blame for the job losses and pit

closures. Wednesday's leader in *The Times* claimed that the industry is uncompetitive. Such criticisms are misplaced. Although the electricity industry is not yet as competitive as I would have wished — our need to get the whole industry into the private sector in the lifetime of one parliament necessarily limited the options available — electricity generation is becoming a competitive business. National Power, PowerGen, Nuclear Electric and the two Scottish companies have to compete to sell electricity and smaller generators are entering the market. The distribution companies, which had been held captive by the nationalised monopoly supplier are joining in, building power stations and generating electricity.

For nearly 50 years before privatisation nobody, other than the CEBG, had built a commercial power station in this country. Within a year of privatisation, 20 new suppliers were queuing up to enter the market. The criticism, when we revealed our plans, was that there would be no competition for the major generators. The complaint now is that there will be too much.

Increasingly, the 12 distribution companies also incorporate in the market-place. The concept of the "common carrier" means that they are free to sell electricity wherever they wish: major users in Kent can buy electricity from Yorkshire or from any of the other regional companies. And more competition will develop. Electricity prices are now quoted on a half-hourly basis and it is far from fanciful to imagine a market in electricity futures developing. In only two years, major changes are underway in an industry which had not changed as much in the previous 40 years.

This week's decision is sad. It need not have happened so quickly but Mr Scargill made that inevitable. The package of measures announced by Michael Heseltine will help to cushion those miners who will lose their jobs in the short-term. But what is needed is new private-sector investment and there is every reason to believe that this will come, particularly if helped by lower interest rates. The evidence from previous pit closures is that there is a future away from coal.

Euro-jargon sent packing

MUCH as John Major and Europe's other leaders at today's EC summit will doubtless appreciate the special delights of Britain's second city, they will not be thanking the organisation which refused to budge from London's premier conference venue and thus forced them out of the capital in the first place.

When Major first announced plans for the emergency summit, Downing Street's intended venue was London. That was swiftly changed when the Plain English Campaign, whose supporters are no fans of Brussels, said it had no intention of giving up its prior booking on the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster.

Yesterday, when the British presidency had hoped to be setting up inside the Westminster centre, the campaign was in residence, dishing out its civil service awards under the auspices of the Princess Royal. Perhaps it is as well that the EC summit will be elsewhere. If Chrissie Maher, the Plain English Campaign's director, had encountered the EC leaders, she would have offered some very

plain speaking of her own. "Brussels is even worse than Whitehall for churning out gobbledegook. Europe is a linguistic nightmare," she says. Earlier this week Jacques Delors offered to pay anyone who could provide a definition of subsidiarity on one sheet of paper. "It's a meaningless word. I don't even think John Major knows what it means," says Maher.

Fresh from winning a week-long battle in Strasbourg with the Eurocrats over suitable labelling on medicines, the Plain English Campaigners will today launch their "Eurocrat of the year" award, due to be presented in December. "I suspect we will rename it Eurocrat award," says Maher. "I want every lawyer in the country to comb the Maastricht treaty for examples. We will be deluged with entries. It is impenetrably bad English."

The award will be presented at the same time as the Edinburgh summit and with typical cheek, the campaign has invited high priest of Euro-jargon, Jacques Delors to make the presentation. Maher says: "By that time, we may have even worked out what subsidiarity means. We are thinking of awarding that word a special booty prize."



DIARY

● Tonight's performance of Prince Tandy of Cumbria, by the German playwright J.R. Lenz at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre Studio has been cancelled. And why was the theatre staging so obscure a piece in the first place? To mark Britain's presidency of the EC of course.

In the stars

THE Cambridge undergraduate paper, *Variety*, is offering former student Norman Lamont some advice about his future. Back in 1964, on Lamont's retirement as president of the Union, *Variety*'s astrologer, Madame Boot, told the future Chancellor of the Exchequer: "Expect a quieter life from now on. Travel. Don't allow frustration to worry you. Concentrate, so that genuine talents can expand to possible fame." With old friends like these, perhaps it is no surprise that La-

mont was "unable" to make a billed appearance at a Union debate on the economy earlier this week.

Still reeling

L'ESCARGOT, the Soho restaurant, may have been gone into receivership this week, but there is still a glimmer of hope for admirers of Elena Salvoni, the septuagenarian *maitre d'* who is as much a part of the eatery as the furnishings. Salvoni, 72, has been offered a part in Bill Forsyth's new film, *Being Human*, in which she will have a cameo role as an Italian mother. "It is just a little part as an extra," confirms Salvoni. "I really don't know much more about it at this stage. I met Bill and I'm waiting for the script to arrive." The restaurant, of which Salvoni is such a fundamental part, is believed to have three pro-

spective buyers to take over from the Bassanini family. Whatever else, however, Salvoni says she will remain at L'Escargot as long as the doors remain open. "We are still serving food and I shall continue as long as my legs permit," she says.

● Appalled by Kenneth Clarke's admission that he had never read the Maastricht treaty, academics are now wondering how many MPs have read the 35-year-old Treaty of Rome. The Institute for Policy Research is sending 212 pages of the documents, plus a copy of the European Single Act, to every MP, including Clarke and John Major — before they debate Maastricht.

Security screen

A SURE sign that the Royal Household is entering the modern age: the Queen is installing a £500,000 computer system, with among other things, a special programme to help calculate what exactly she is worth. The system is said to include a facility for drawing up the royal income tax return, should the Queen ever decide that she wishes to pay tax in the same way as her subjects. Details of the system are disclosed in tomorrow's *Computer*

Weekly. According to computer experts, not only is the system one of the easiest for hackers to break into, but the monarch may be flouting EC regulations requiring public disclosure of computer contracts funded by



taxpayers. Buckingham Palace insists there is no such breach of EC rules, arguing that although the project is being funded from the civil list, it is not part of the public service and so is exempt from the Brussels strictures. Furthermore, "as the computer system is not linked to a telephone network, it is far from a hacker's dream," says a Buck House spokesman. "I think these so-called experts are wrong."



FORCE THE SERBS BACK

■ Bosnia needs more than tents and sympathy

General Winter is marching on Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, quickly British troops arrive, hundreds of thousands more civilians, dying of exposure in filthy refugee shelters, will be added to the hundreds of civilians maimed or killed in the fighting. Cyrus Vance, the United Nations' negotiator, has denounced the West's "extraordinary" delay in responding to the Security Council's call for 5,000 more UN troops. The West has been far too slow to deploy. But what matters now is that British troops are free to do an effective job.

War is killing Bosnia, and the Serbs are the aggressors. The West has so far shied away from military strikes against the warlords. European governments which have committed troops fear that intervention would make the UN forces protecting relief convoys targets for Serbian guns. They agreed to the UN's no-fly zone over Bosnia with too evident reluctance. That is why the commander of the Bosnian Serb air force has felt free to refuse pointblank to move his aircraft to Serbia, as agreed between Lord Owen and the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic. This defiance compels the West to back UN enforcement unequivocally, giving notice that the next plane that takes off over Bosnia, flown by anyone except the UN, will be shot down. There are Western fighters within range.

If that leads to harassment of the aid convoys, Western troops will have to respond decisively, even if this stretches the terms of their defensive rules of engagement. This would not constitute open-ended intervention. It would bring home to the Serbs that the UN will tolerate no obstruction to its humanitarian mission.

The Serbs will defy the UN until the military credibility of its ground forces is reinforced. That means rapid co-ordination, sweeping away the absurd demarcations between different forces. It can be done only by Nato, whatever the oddity of having a French overall commander. The involvement of the Americans, whose political commitment comes in waves but whose humanitarian concern is not in doubt, is

essential. And only they have the logistics and intelligence the UN urgently needs.

Saving lives is only a start. The Bosnian Serbs have swept across Bosnia in an arc of conquest. They must be convinced that they will never be able to hang on to this territory. Only Belgrade can force a reversal, but the sanctions on Serbia are still only half-heartedly enforced.

The West must also play a subtler game, aimed at destroying the power base of Serbia's strongman, Slobodan Milosevic, the architect of this misery. His opponents have tried unsuccessfully to secure a referendum to force him out; they will try other constitutional devices and should be helped. The West must support Mr Milosevic and make plain its support for Milan Panic, the federal prime minister who has set out to face him down. Some of the deviousness the West has wrongly applied to military action would be in order when dealing with Serbia's internal politics.

Most Serbs are horrified by their international isolation. Even Greece and Russia are cooling their traditional friendship. Turkey is now pressing for selective airstrikes. The West could encourage such speculation: keeping tyrants guessing is a good way of undermining their morale. Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, has broken one promise too many. His puffed up utterances should be dismissed in Geneva as meaningless until he proves that he can control the fighters on the ground.

The hapless Muslims, the most abused of Bosnia's civilians, need more than tents and sympathy. Despite American objections, the West should consider lifting the arms embargo on the Muslims, to enable them to defend themselves effectively against Serbian troops who are able to call on much of the old Yugoslavia's arsenal. That could prevent the fall of Sarajevo. At the same time, the Muslims must not become the Palestinians of Europe; they must be told bluntly that they too must sit down and negotiate a new Bosnia. The West must deploy more than just troops; it must demonstrate, at last, that it is out to stop this war.

THE PRIME MINISTER

■ The prime minister needs more than guts and stubbornness

Between now and Christmas it is possible that the prime minister will prove himself a survivor. He may bring something home from Birmingham today, a little more from the Edinburgh summit; he may put together a financial strategy for Norman Lamont to unveil at the Mansion House. He may even have a little luck.

To deserve to survive he must show leadership. If he does survive, however, it will more likely be by the less heroic means of keeping his head down while the bullets fly. If a prime minister is to lead, he has to be ahead. He needs a programme for the time before him. He needs to know moves that his opponents do not know. Ideally, he has to be three big steps in front of his critics; and if he has the political and rhetorical skills to make those three look like 30, so much the better.

Mr Major's destructive stubbornness has only recently become apparent. His futile fixation on Maastricht, the Exchange Rate Mechanism and the exorcising of inflation need not become the hallmark of his whole prime ministership. He should not see a change of economic course as a victory for trade unionists, Tory fainthearts and treacherous bishops. He should chart his own route away from recession. At the moment, it seems, he can move nowhere without the support of cabinet members whose personal interests are not even in his survival. He looks weak. He is weak.

debate, even apparently within the Cabinet. The need is for a flexible response: at least the possibility of changed policies, at least a sense that someone in government has a grasp of the levers that different agencies of government are trying to control.

Britons know Mr Major well. We do not expect the impossible. If he were to arm himself with Churchillian metaphor, he would be as risible as if he dressed in the wardrobe of Lady Thatcher. The prime minister was introduced to voters first as an ordinary man of good sense, someone who might think that to close down half the coal industry was less good an idea after the past weeks' political and economic turmoil than it had seemed before: or at least that the plan required a second look.

Mr Major's destructive stubbornness has only recently become apparent. His futile fixation on Maastricht, the Exchange Rate Mechanism and the exorcising of inflation need not become the hallmark of his whole prime ministership. He should not see a change of economic course as a victory for trade unionists, Tory fainthearts and treacherous bishops. He should chart his own route away from recession. At the moment, it seems, he can move nowhere without the support of cabinet members whose personal interests are not even in his survival. He looks weak. He is weak.

SNAP THE CRIMINALS

■ Spy cameras should now begin to stop motoring madness

There are no unselfish liberals behind steering-wheels, and precious few absolutely honest citizens who on principle never break the law. The commissioner of Metropolitan Police was referring mainly to motorists when he spoke about the middle classes being happy to break laws when it suited them. Breaking the motoring laws and the Highway Code, even by drunken driving, is still widely perceived by motorists as falling in a different category of guilt than other offences. More of a game than the law of the land, in which the driver continually takes chances, and occasionally gets caught out. Even the nomenclature of motoring offences, with its penalty-points, clamps and disqualifications, supports the notion that they are part of a grown-up game of Monopoly on wheels. Go directly to jail. Do not pass Go. Do not collect £200.

And yet nearly 5,000 people are killed on the roads each year. The destruction of person and property caused by motor cars is far greater than by all other forms of crime. Yesterday in London speed cameras were introduced to try to persuade motorists to introduced to try to persuade motorists to stick to the speed limits. They join the spy cameras already installed on traffic lights. The catch motorists who jump the lights. The latter offence is so prevalent in London that the police do not usually prosecute unless the driver crosses three seconds after the light has changed to red. From yesterday the spy cameras started to be introduced also on motorways to catch the speeders.

As a result of the new Road Traffic Act, motorists can now be prosecuted on camera evidence alone, without supporting testimony of a police officer. The cameras will

be moved from one black-spot to another, and dummy cameras will be deployed, so that motorists cannot be sure when Brother in Blue's Eye is watching them.

Such stealthy electronic surveillance may seem unparliamentary to the less thoughtful of Britain's 23 million motorists. But traffic offences stopped being a game long ago, at about the time when it stopped being compulsory to have a man walking in front of the car with a red flag. From being an Englishman's greatest private love, perhaps (but not automatically) after his wife and his dog, the motor car has turned into a public monster. It has taken over the streets of the cities, with its insatiable appetite for space and speed, eating the urban flesh, devouring land whether parked or speeding or, more probably, crawling and fuming, leaving the pavements and buildings as islands with stranded pedestrians in oceans of dangerous and ugly and polluting traffic.

The speed cameras are a welcome new law-enforcement tool, which will free the police to pursue other less damaging forms of crime. To manufacture and sell motor cars in the United Kingdom that are capable of going at more than twice as fast as the legal speed limit is another daft example of the British hypocrisy in breaking traffic laws as sport rather than crime. The government target is to reduce death on the roads by a third by the end of the century. This will need a change in British worship of the Moloch of the Twentieth Century. But spy cameras and the probability of being caught should help to tame that lethal idolatry.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Pit closures: short-term gain and the national interest

From the Archbishop of York and others

Sir, The inescapable responsibility of government is to create a policy framework within which the overall national interest and the long-term national interest are constantly held in view.

There seems widespread agreement, outside the government, that the announcement of extensive pit closures constitutes a self-inflicted disaster for our economic and social life at this time of deepening recession.

The announcement appears to be the result of different sectors of the energy industry taking unfettered and unco-ordinated decisions in the light of assessments of their own narrow interests, as indicated by currently prevailing market conditions.

It cannot be right, economically, to sterilise our coal reserves for short-term gain on power costs (gains which many knowledgeable people doubt will be realised) and to place ourselves increasingly at the mercy of imports of foreign fuels.

It cannot be right, either economically or morally, to put 30,000 hard-working and well-equipped workers on the dole queue, devastating whole communities whose coal industries could contribute to the economic well-being of this and future generations.

We call upon the government to suspend the implementation of this disastrous proposal and to institute a re-examination of our country's long-term energy needs.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN EBOR,

DAVID DUNELM,

NIGEL WAKEFIELD,

DAVID SHEFFIELD,

ALAN SHERWOOD,

PETER DERBY,

Bishopthorpe Palace,

Bishopthorpe, York,

October 14.

From Professor David Rickard

Sir, The announcement that British Coal intends to close 31 underground coal mines marks a watershed in British history. The twenty-first century will be the first time that the British Isles have not been self-sufficient in energy. Future government policies will be directed by the need to maintain supplies of energy from overseas.

In the medium term this situation is inevitable: in the long term it might be avoided, by investing in a crash programme of energy-related research and development.

Even if a tenth of Mr Heseltine's £1,000 million redundancy money were to be invested into energy and R & D, Britain could become self-sufficient in energy. Areas of research would include the continued utilisation of our enormous coal reserves, although these are mostly inaccessible by conventional mining techniques.

The UK should be the world leader in coal-bed methane production, in-situ combustion and liquefaction techniques and clean coal burning. There is a tremendous untapped reservoir of experience and technical knowledge in our mining communities and

universities. Now is the time for the government to release it.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID RICKARD,

University of Wales,

Department of Geology,

PO Box 914, Cardiff CF1 3YE,

October 14.

From Mr Peter Ross

Sir, Government proclaims its energy policy is the establishment of market-led decision-taking, leading to competition. But instead of a competitive market we have heavily subsidised nuclear electricity and a faulty privatisation structure that is anti-competitive.

As a result energy users, struggling to survive in deep recession, are further handicapped by unjustified electricity price increases, while our largest energy resource, coal, capable of fueling lower-cost power than the dash for gas, is all but destroyed.

Government and the regulator should put this Alice-in-Wonderland policy to the market test. The generators and government claim gas is the cheaper option. So why not invite bids for pits and coal-fired power stations due for closure to alternative operators at site value?

The regulator should provide a level playing field in the power market, ensuring that the lowest cost generators are given fair competitive access to supply. If the duopoly does not want the coal or the coal power stations, let others be offered the opportunity to own and run them — including British Coal itself.

If there are no takers who believe they can underprice the new gas-fired plants, at least the economics of the mad-house will have been confirmed.

Yours sincerely,

PETER ROSS (Chairman,

Major Energy Users' Council),

9 Cork Street, W1,

October 14.

From Mr K. W. Woznica

Sir, The head office of British Coal still occupies the same imposing building, Hobart House in Grosvenor Place, which it occupied when it administered hundreds of thousands of miners and hundreds of pits.

I hope British Coal will now drastically cut the number of employees and move to some less sumptuous office block in Ealing, Croydon or even Slough.

Hobart House could be then sold to the Japanese, or some Arab country, to be converted into a hotel to house future tourists who will come to visit the biggest open-air museum in the world.

Yours faithfully,

K. W. WOZNICA,

Willowspring, Longhedge,

Corsley, Wiltshire,

October 14.

From Dr Bob Whelan and Dr Jonathan Williams

Sir, Speaking on the Today programme this morning the President of the Board of Trade confirmed his principal justification for the government's slaughter of the coal industry:

Criminal Justice Act

From the Director of Nacro

Sir, His Honour Judge Michael Mettrey (letter, October 10) takes issue with my reference to Home Office researchers' finding that 39 per cent of offenders sentenced in crown courts for theft of value under £200 received immediate custodial sentences. He cites "explanations for such sentences", such as breach of suspended sentences, theft of mail by a postman or offenders' refusal to co-operate in the composition of other sentences.

It is true that one case cited in the research study involved theft of mail by a postman. More usual were offences in breach of a suspended sentence. In typical cases an offender who had made off without paying for a meal worth £1.40 received three months' imprisonment for this plus six months for breach of the suspended sentence (self imposed for minor offences), and another convicted on two shoplifting counts, total value £90, received six months for these offences, plus a one-month activated suspended sentence.

The researchers concluded that, while "readily explicable", these cases "highlight the way in which sentences can be related more to past behaviour than to the seriousness of the matters currently before the court, resulting in the use of custody for quite trivial offences".

The Criminal Justice Act 1991 would have prevented both the initial suspended sentences and the later immediate prison sentences, unless the offender actively refused consent to a community sentence proposed by the court.

Judge Mettrey is right to identify the latter problem. It remains to be seen how frequently such refusal will mean that custodial sentences for minor offences survive the new Criminal Justice Act.

Yours faithfully,

VIVIAN STERN,

Director,

National Association for the Care

and Resettlement of Offenders,

169 Clapham Road, SW9,

October 12.

Business letters, page 25
Sports letters, page 35

Maastricht and transfer of powers

From Dr Howard Erskine-Hill, FBA

Sir, Now that the prime minister's patriotic words at the Conservative conference have won him a breathing-space, may I list some cold realities that must be faced:

1. It is more important to revive our dying economy than subordinate all to eventual re-entry to the exchange-rate mechanism.

2. Britain will have no influence "at the heart of Europe" because its economy will still be too weak, and most British do not share the vision of Benelux, Germany and 51.5 per cent of France.

3. For these very reasons, these nations do not in fact want Britain at the heart of Europe and will try to prevent it.

4. A majority of British would rather be poor and self-governing than (if credible) rich and ruled from Brussels. 5. Unless we vote in a referendum in favour of the Single European Act and the (amended) Maastricht treaty we shall never be a stable member of the EC.

6. The concept of subsidiarity is no consolation while it is being applied the wrong way round. Brussels is of course subsidiary to the historically sovereign governments of the twelve.

We have held three constitutional referendums on issues less momentous than Maastricht. For reasons advanced by Mr Leolin Price, QC, Mr Vernon Bogdanor (letters, October 10) and other of your correspondents, there has to be another. This is the greatest constitutional issue the country has ever faced.

Yours faithfully,

H. H. ERSKINE-HILL,

Pembroke College, Cambridge.

From Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC

Sir, If a "Maastricht Ratification Bill" passed by the House of Commons were to be rejected by the House of Lords on second reading, the political and economic consequences for Europe could well be devastating in these times of currency upheavals and recession.

Long before the Bill could have reached the statute book by resort to the Parliament Acts, adherents to a

"The market for British coal next year is roughly half of current production." Where is the strategic thinking? Does government not have a responsibility to consider this nation's energy supplies beyond next year?

Early in the next century, the UK is set to become highly dependent upon gas imports, at greatly increased prices. Then we will bitterly regret the forthcoming destruction of much of our coal reserve and its supporting technological infrastructure.

Yours faithfully,

R. WHELAN,

(Chief Executive),

J. WILLIAMS

(Senior project leader,

Centre for Exploitation of

Science and Technology,

5 Berners Road, N1,

October 15.

From Mr I. J. Kimmins

Sir, Some 40 years ago, shortly after nationalisation, my father, who was manager of Manvers Main colliery in South Yorkshire, sometimes took me down the pit on a Sunday morning.

I have never forgotten those exciting expeditions, nor the wonderful spirit and sense of belonging which existed in the South Yorkshire mining villages.

There is an argument that the miners have made mistakes, but surely they deserve more compassion.

Yours faithfully,

IAN KIMMINS,

Penwood, Penwood End,

Hook Heath, Woking, Surrey,

October 14.

From Mr Oscar A. Beuselink

Sir, What happens if those who supply us with cheap coal from abroad, realising that we are without any immediate opportunity of mining it ourselves, suddenly decide to double their prices?

Yours faithfully,

OSCAR A. BEUSELINK,

52 Westminster Gardens,

Marshall Street, SW1,

October 14.

From Mrs Kay Dixon

Sir, On the same day that the headline news is pit closures leading to the loss of 30,000 jobs, one of our major national newspapers has no fewer than 26 pages of public-sector jobs, many of them in the field of social work and counselling.

It is interesting to contemplate the sort of society we have created. It is not, it seems, considered correct to spend money on keeping people in jobs, and therefore relatively content and fulfilled, during the world recession. On the other hand, it appears that funds are available to counsel them through difficulties often caused by unemployment and debt, leading to depression, feelings of worthlessness and, often, despair.

As someone once said, it's a funny old world.

Yours faithfully,

KAY DIXON,

15a The Terrace, SW13,

October 14.

Time running out for Sarajevo

From Professor Adrian Hastings

Sir, There are 300,000 civilians besieged in the ruins of Sarajevo, deprived of almost every amenity and beginning to face a bitter winter. They are also daily bombarded and the aim of that bombardment is quite simply to destroy the identity of their city and force them into exile.

It is now certain that if nothing is done by Europe or the US in the next few weeks to end the siege — and it could be stopped in a day — then most will die and a European city of great distinction and historic character will effectively cease to exist. Simply to send food to people in such circumstances is a pointless exercise.

No comparable situation has existed in Europe since the siege of Warsaw in 1945. Do we want to duplicate that appalling event? It would indeed be even worse this time in that, while a Polish Warsaw was rebuilt, a genuinely Bosnian Sarajevo never will be.

The leaders of Europe are meeting in Birmingham. Upon them, and upon them now, rests the decision whether Sarajevo and its inhabitants live or die.

Yours,

ADRIAN HASTINGS,

The University of Leeds,

Department of Theology and

Religious Studies,

Leeds LS2 9JT,

October 14.

Alexander's legacy

From Mr Nigel Wheatley

Sir, The leading article, "Alexander's disputed legacy" (October 13), on the problem of recognition of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, covered many important points, sadly not always accurately.

Your argument, and that of the Greek government, implies that pernicious nationalism is a Slavic monopoly: it is self-evidently not. Very little has been mentioned of Greece's former territorial claims on Pirin Macedonia, the neighbouring area of Bulgaria, but much has been inferred of the supposed territorial ambitions of the republic of Macedonia. Macedonia is not "the name arbitrarily assigned to southern Yugoslavia by Tito". The area was referred to by the treaties of Versailles and Neuilly (both signed by Greece), in which it was divided between Bulgaria, Greece, and the predecessor of Yugoslavia.

There is a desperate need for compromise: Northern Macedonia (geographically indisputable), Vardar Macedonia (the pre-war name of the area) or Macedostavia are possibilities. The Greek suggestion of two different names, one for internal use and one for the rest of the world, only serves to inflame the ultra-nationalists. The EC should be a force for stability in the area: it is exactly the opposite.

Yours faithfully,

N. WHEATLEY,

1 Vint Crescent, Colchester, Essex,

October 13.

From Ms Branka Magas

Sir, Your editorial on Macedonia omits to mention what must surely be the most relevant fact — that Macedonia has fulfilled all the conditions for recognition set it by the European Community.

The Community's subsequent refusal to recognise Macedonia does no credit to its member states, nor does it help the cause of peace in the Balkans. Since when has one nation had the right to choose the name of another? No classical education is needed to understand how petty Greece's behaviour has been to its northern neighbour.

Yours faithfully,

BRANKA MAGAS,

119 Blenheim Crescent, W11,

October 13.

Righting the balance

From Mr Daniel J. Stone

Sir, Your editorial "Voyage of self-discovery", October 12 that asks us to "stop knocking Christopher Columbus" on the ground that "the balance is overwhelmingly for the good" misses the point. It is unquestionably true that the Old World has much to thank the New World for. The question that revisionists ask is what did the New World have to thank the Old World for, and that question is not answered in your editorial.

It was never the European who was subjugated and destroyed and enslaved, nor was it the Old World that was defiled and despoiled.

Yours faithfully,

D. J. STONE,

28 Palewell Park, SW14,

October 12.

Coin of the realm?

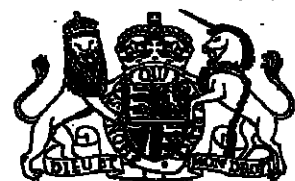
From Mr Robert J. Jelly

Sir, The new 10p piece is made at the Royal Mint, Llantrisant, on German machines. Is this another attempt by Germany at the total control of our money supply?

Yours etc.,

ROBERT J. JELLY,

7 Elizabeth Way,



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 15: His Excellency the Hon. Manuel T. Yan and Mrs Yan were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Philippines to the Court of St James's.

The Governor of Western Australia and Lady Burt were received by Her Majesty.

The Lord Macdary was received by The Queen and delivered up the insignia of the Order of the Thistle worn by his Uncle, the late Lord Mounslie, KT.

Sir Colin Cole had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon relinquishing his appointment as Garner Principal King of Arms, and delivered up the insignia of Office, when The Queen invested him with the insignia of Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Civil Division).

Dr Conrad Swan had the honour of being received by Her Majesty when The Queen handed to him the insignia of Office upon his appointment as Garner Principal King of Arms.

The Queen was entertained at dinner this evening by His Excellency the High Commissioner for Australia and Mrs Smith at Stoke Lodge, Hyde Park Gate, London SW7.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 15: The Princess Royal this morning presented the Plain English Campaign's Inside Write Awards at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Broad Sanctuary, Westminster, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness then presented the Radio 4 "In Touch" David Scott Blackhall Award at Broadcasting House, London W1.

The Princess Royal, Master, the Worshipful Company of Lancers, attended the Autumn Court Meeting, followed by Dinner, at Cuders Hall, Warwick Lane, London EC4.

Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 15: The Princess of Wales, Patron, Help the Aged, this morning visited the Bromley by Bow Volunteering Project, Tower Hamlets, London E1.

Her Royal Highness afterwards opened "Images of Drugs in Southwark", an exhibition of local people's art work at the Marquee, Potter's Fields, London SE1.

KENSINGTON PALACE

October 15: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, today visited Elstree and was received by Mr Timothy Gilligan (Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire).

Her Royal Highness, Member of the Court of Ambassadors of the Haberdashers' Company, this morning visited the Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls and opened the Wilshire Building.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this afternoon visited the Haberdashers' Aske's School for Boys and opened the Bourne Building.

The Countess Alexander of Tunis was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 15: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, the International Visual Communications Association, was present this evening at a reception at the Studios of Limehouse Television, Rupert Street, London W1.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE
October 15: The Duke of Kent today opened Rover Group's new Triax Press Line, Swindon, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Wiltshire (Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs).

This afternoon His Royal Highness opened Avon-Clevis Limited's new premises in Chippenham, Wiltshire.

Captain the Honourable Tom Coke was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK
October 15: Princess Alexandra this afternoon visited the House of St Barnabas-in-Soho, Greek Street, London W1.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, subsequently attended a Service of Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey to mark the 25th Anniversary of St Christopher's Hospice.

Mrs Peter Afa was in attendance.

Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy this evening attended a Concert in aid of Live Music Now at the Barbican Centre, London EC2.



Norma Major presents a Sunshine School on behalf of the Variety Club of Great Britain to pupils from Lansdowne School, Brixton, south London, at Downing Street yesterday

Memorial services

The Right Rev A.P. Tremlett, Archbishop of Canterbury, was represented by Canon Leonard Tyack at a service of thanksgiving for the life of the Right Rev Anthony Paul Tremlett held yesterday at St Stephen's, Rochester Row. The Right Rev Richard Chartres, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, officiated. The Rev Professor Owen Chadwick OM read the lesson and Mr James Dawney gave an address. The Rev Neil Nicholls was robed and in the Sanctuary. The Bishop of Rochester was represented by Miss Diana Mason.

Among those present were: Mrs Henry Cotton (tutor), Mr Tom Tremlett (half-brother), Mr and Mrs George Tremlett (half-brothers-in-law), Mr and Mrs Keith Middlemas (half-brothers-in-law), Mr and Mrs Mark Wood, Mr and Mrs Bernard Swayne, Mr Nicholas Tremlett, Miss Annabel Middlemas, Mr and Mrs Tremlett, Sir Peter Miles, Mrs Diana Ball, The Earl of Eglinton and Winton, The Right Rev E. Roberts, The Right Rev Michael and Mrs Martin, Mrs Richard Chartres, Lord Reddesdale, Lady Reddesdale, The Hon Robert and Mrs Rosemary, The Hon Mrs Margaret Fox, The Hon Mrs Lockhart-Munro, The Hon Mrs Francis Furness, The Hon George Plumptre, The Hon Edward and Mrs Rosemary, Sir Brian Warren, Lady Helen Lady Dudley-Williams, Sir Reginald Pullen (United Westminster Almshouse), and Lady Rhodes James, Dame

Marion Kesteven, Sir John Milne, Dame Joan Varley. The Archbishop of Middlesex and Mrs Ruffell, the Provost of Coventry Cathedral, Canon Eric James, Mr Geoffrey Woolley, Mrs Ian Garmston, Mrs James Dawney, Mr and Mrs John Dawney, Canon and Mrs J. Robinson, Mr Christopher Gibbs, Mr and Mrs Malcolm Dudley-Williams, Mr Mark Thompson-Dyrcourt, the Rev Nicolas Stacey, Mr and Mrs P. P. Turner, Canon Geoffrey Brown, Mr and Mrs Ross Anderson, Mr John Tarrant, Canon, Prebendary John Foster, Mr W. B. Clives and Mr and Mrs Christopher Soudry.

Lord Moyne, HM Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland, attended a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Moyne held yesterday in the Chapel of Trinity College, Dublin. The Rev Michael Burrows, Anglican chaplain at the college, officiated, assisted by the Very Rev Maurice Steward, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, and the Rev Paul Colton, Lord Moyne, son, read the lesson, and the Hon Desmond Guinness, son, read a selection of his father's poetry. The Earl of Longford gave an address.

The Very Rev J.H.S. Wild, a memorial service for the Very Rev John Herbert Severn Wild was held yesterday in the Chapel of University College, Oxford. The Rev W.G.D. Sykes, chaplain, officiated.

Dinners

Wesley Library Endowment Appeal
The Secretary of State for National Heritage and the Hon Mrs Brooke were the guests of honour at a dinner held last night at Lincoln's Inn to launch the James Callaghan Endowment Trust.

Lord Meyrick-Rice, president of the appeal, presided. The other speakers were The Hon Peter Brooke, Mr Lewis Golden, a trustee, and Lord Callaghan of Cardiff KC.

Chambers of Jocelyn Gibbs and Carl Teper
The annual dinner of the Chambers of Jocelyn Gibbs and Carl Teper was held last night at the Reform Club. The principal guest speakers were Lord Justice Slynn and Mr John Newing, the Chief Constable of Derbyshire. Mr Carl Teper also spoke. The guests included:

Lord Boston of Faversham, QC, and Lady Boston, Lady Sney, Sir David Davy, Judge John Taylor, QC, and Mr Taylor, Judge Mowlem-Williams, Judge Phipps, Judge Croomy and Judge Croomy, Judge Sanders, Mr Gerard Ellis, QC and Mrs Ellis, Mr Peter Felton, QC and Mrs Felton, Mr Jeremy Connor, Miss Daphne Wickham, Mrs Hazel Rose, Mrs Brenda Fanning, Mr Adrian Kenne, Mr Andrew Harman, Mr Derek Martin, Miss Mary Bewan, Mr Peter Hendricks, Miss Vera Corbett and Mrs Judith Lynn of Wicks Stern.

Machinists' Company
Mr J.C. Carson, delivered the Bowden address to the Machinists' Company at the annual dinner held last night at Stationers' Hall, Mr G. Darby, Master, and Mr J. Hatfield, Middle Warden, also spoke.

Service dinners
HM Ambassador to America, HM Ambassador to Africa, Mr J.C. Carson, delivered the Bowden address to the Machinists' Company at the annual dinner held last night at Stationers' Hall, Mr G. Darby, Master, and Mr J. Hatfield, Middle Warden, also spoke.

Celer and Andax Club
Field Marshal Lord Bramall presided at the annual dinner of the Celer and Andax Club (The King's Royal Rifle Corps) held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

Appointments

Miss Caroline Alton, Mr Simon Darvall Smith and Mr David Maddison to be circuit judges, assigned to the Midlands and Oxford, the Western and the Northern circuits respectively.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will visit Westbury in Wiltshire at 11.00; will unveil a plaque at Northampton Guildhall at 12.30; and will visit Northampton High School sports centre at 2.45.

The Princess of Wales will visit Portsmouth Guildhall at 11.05 to receive the Honorary Freedom of the City; will visit the City Museum at 1.25; will visit the Buckingham Green play area at 2.05; and will visit the neo-natal unit at St Mary's Hospital at 2.35.

The Princess Royal as President of the Save the Children Fund, will visit the Save the Children Shop at 34 High Street, High Wycombe, at 12.05; will visit Pangbourne College, Berkshire, at 2.30 in aid of the college's 75th anniversary.

Princess Margaret, as Patron of Teenage, will attend a dinner at Linton House, Sparskott, near Winchester, at 7.30.

Birthdays today

Lord Adrian, 65; Mr Peter Bowles, actor, 56; Mr. Miss Bygrave, 70; Mr. Paul Gallagher, trades unionist, 48; Mr John Grant, former MP, 60; Mr Gunter Grass, writer, 65; Mr W.W. Grove, former master, Wiltshire College, Cambridge, 91; Mr Terry Griffiths, snooker player, 45; Miss Angela Lansbury, actress, 67; Lord Macdonald of Gwynedd, 77; Lord Maclellan of Becho, KT, 75; Mr Hugh Macmillan, chief constable, Northern Constabulary, 60; the Most Rev Thomas Morris, former Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, 78; Miss Emma Nicholson, MP, 51; the Rev Dr John Polkinghorne, president, Queen's College, Cambridge, 62.

Christening

The infant daughter of the Earl and Countess of Darnley was christened Amabel Clare Adian F. Arrowsmith, assisted by the Rev Gareth Evans, at Our Lady of Victory, Kensington, on October 11, 1992. The godparents are Lady Brooke, Lady Julia Craig Harvey, Miss Catherine Cameron, Mr William Kerr, Mr Jonathan Warrapier and Mr Charles von Westenholz.

Reception

Ordinance Board
Major-General C.R.S. Nofley, President of the Ordnance Board, received the guests at a reception held last night at Lancaster House.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr H.M. Barlow and Miss S.V. Cranfield
The engagement is announced between Hugh, youngest son of Dr and Mrs H. Barlow, of Greenside, Johannesburg, and Sharon, younger daughter of Captain and Mrs P.G. Cranfield, of Runtling, West Sussex.

Mr R.G. Davies and Miss S. Messenger
The engagement is announced between Roderick Gareth, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Bryan Davies, of Bromborough, Merseyside, and Sally, only daughter of Mr and Mrs James Messenger, of St Andrews, Gwent.

Mr P.R. Lewington and Miss S.J. Bide
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs Gordon Lewington, of Ewshot, Surrey, and Susan, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Bide, of Court, Surrey.

Mr C.J.F. Macdonald and Miss S.J. Whitmore
The engagement is announced between Christopher, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J.G. Macdonald, of Oxford, and Sarah Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R.E.R. Whitmore, of Pedmore, Stourbridge, West Midlands.

Mr D.L. Schall and Miss S.J. James
The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs Rolf Schall, of London, N2, and Deborah, elder daughter of Brigadier and Mrs Ralph James, of London, N20.

Marriages

Mr G.N. Hayes and Mrs M. Ellis
The marriage took place on Monday, October 12, 1992, at Fulham Register Office, between Mr G. Hayes, of Bridlington, and Mrs Marina Ellis, of Fife, North Yorkshire.

Mr M. Inwood and Miss M. Hanley
The marriage took place on Saturday, October 10, 1992, at All Saints Church, Marlow, between Mr Mark Inwood and Miss Mandy Hanley.

Mr A.G.P. Twa and Miss R.A. Hattrell
The marriage took place on October 10, 1992, at All Saints Church, Stanhope, Norfolk, of Mr Andrew Twa, elder son of Mr and Mrs George Twa, of Winchester, Hampshire, and Miss Rosemary Hattrell, only daughter of Mrs Judy Hattrell, of Stanhope, Norfolk and the late Mr John Hattrell. The Rev Neil Llewellyn officiated, assisted by Dom Edward Corbould. The bride was given in marriage by her brother, Mr Martin Hattrell, who was attended by Sophia Hattrell, Oliver Lyons and Felix Tusa. Mr Angus McCullough was best man.

TEL: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313

My enemies, do not count on me. Though I have fallen, I shall rise again; though I live in darkness, the Lord is my light.
Micah 7: 8

BIRTHS

ARCHDEACON - On October 3rd 1992, to Helen (nee Almond) and Richard, a son, William Charles, a brother for Victoria.

BLACK - On October 2nd, to Maura and David, a son, Alexander David James.

BOON - On October 8th to Alan (nee Colley) and a daughter, Harriet Lilla, a sister for Daniel and Cecilia.

CLACK - On October 10th 1992, to Nikki (nee Lessa) and Edward, a son, Robert Alexander, brother to Henry.

CLARKE - On October 10th, to Alice (nee Colley) and a daughter, Alice Susan, a sister for Harry.

FERGUSON - On October 10th, to Mary (nee Mann) and a daughter, Sophie Amelia.

GAVIN - On October 13th, to Alison (nee Mee) and Christopher, a son, William Augustus (Cousin).

HEAPS - On September 23rd to Susan (nee Ryan) and a son, James Alexander.

HUMPHRIES - On October 7th, to Mary (nee Ross) and a daughter, Lucy Elizabeth.

KHATIB - On October 14th, to the Humana Hospital, to Ghassan and Nada, a son, Omar.

KRAMER - On October 13th in Singapore, to Sara (nee Roberts) and a son, Matthew Thomas, a brother for Marc.

MASPERO - On October 4th, to Alison (nee Campbell) and Geoffrey, a son, Rupert Geoffrey Macdonald.

MEIER - On October 13th, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Leslie Francine (nee) and Frederick Joseph, a daughter, a first grandchild for the Meier and Hill families.

ROBERTS - On October 9th, to Joanna (nee Gant) and a daughter, Isabella Clemence.

UTLAND - On October 15th, to Felicity (nee Gales) and a son, Elizabeth Mary, a sister for Peter, Simon, Katherine and Thomas.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard
SWEEPSTOWER
a. An aircraft with folding wings
b. An easement
c. A cheerful and promiscuous person
ENROUTER
a. Someone who is en route
b. Portable navigational radar
c. A mounted mercenary

BRUSH-BUSTER
a. Politician's minder on wheels
b. A type of rattle snake
c. A cowboy

SAFESPEAR
a. Conscious journalism
b. Optimum peak in advertising
c. Silence

Answers on page 19

BIRTHS

SINFELD - On October 6th 1992, to Jeanne (nee Lowe) and a son, Robert, a brother for Jane, a sister to Robin Ellis.

STACEY - On October 14th, to David (nee Colley) and a daughter, Elizabeth Rose, a sister for William Charles, a brother for Victoria.

THOMAS - On October 15th, to Sally (nee Colley) and a daughter, Harriet Lilla, a sister for Daniel and Cecilia.

TYTOMBS - On October 13th 1992, to Diana (nee Miles) and a son, Dominic Edward.

WALSH - On October 13th 1992, to Sarah (nee Koller) and a son, Robert, a brother for Victoria.

WATERFIELD - On 7th October, to Valerie (nee Colley) and a daughter, Alice Susan, a sister for Harry.

WEISLEY - On October 15th 1992, to Louise and a daughter, Sophie Amelia.

WELLS - On October 13th, to Alison (nee Mee) and Christopher, a son, William Augustus (Cousin).

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DEATHS

GEORGE - On October 12th peacefully, after losing his sight, Norman Alfred George, 78, a son of Mr and Mrs George, a brother for Jane, a sister to Robin Ellis.

STACEY - On October 14th, to David (nee Colley) and a daughter, Elizabeth Rose, a sister for William Charles, a brother for Victoria.

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE No. 00765 of 1992
CHANCERY DIVISION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following is a copy of the proposed order of the Court in the above matter, and that the same will be made an order of the Court unless the contrary is shown to the satisfaction of the Court.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED - and -
IN THE MATTER OF PRUDENTIAL HOLDING LIMITED - and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was presented to the High Court of Justice on the 1st day of October 1992, in the above matter, and that the same was read and considered by the Court on the 1st day of October 1992, and that the Court has made the following order:

The Petition is directed to

NEWS

Judge delays pit closure plan

A High Court judge yesterday ordered British Coal not to close its pits until he rules on the mining unions' application for an injunction to halt the shutdown. The instruction came as it was disclosed that the decision to axe 31 pits with the loss of 30,000 jobs was taken without formal cabinet approval.

Yesterday's two-hour cabinet meeting was the first time all 22 ministers had discussed the closures announced on Tuesday. Government sources said that the decision had been taken by "key ministers in economic departments" Pages 1, 2

Major faces summit battle

John Major was struggling last night to defend his European policy as the government's domestic difficulties mounted and threatened to overshadow today's summit. Page 1

Rail fares leap

Millions of British Rail and London Transport passengers face swingeing fare increases from January in an attempt to help public transport operators make up the continuing decline in revenue due to the recession. Page 6

Women break ranks

Hundreds of women dismissed from the forces after becoming pregnant are joining together to co-ordinate a mass claim for compensation from the Ministry of Defence that could total more than £50 million. Page 10

Delors trade warning

Europe should not strike a world trade deal on American terms, Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, said on the eve of today's EC summit in Birmingham. Page 9

Male rape

Seven serious sexual assaults on men this year in London alone have highlighted the taboo subject of male rape. As the latest victim, a hairdresser raped on Hampstead Heath, northwest London, was recovering yesterday, police and welfare agencies urged men to overcome their inhibitions and report sexual attacks. Page 6

UK Bosnia force

A British battle group of 2,400 troops will be operational in Bosnia and Croatia from November 13, ready to carry out the first

armed convoy of humanitarian aid, Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, said yesterday. Page 11

Ripper to die

Andrei Chikatilo, alias the 'Rostov Ripper', the Russian serial killer who tortured, cannibalised and murdered at least 52 people, was sentenced to death yesterday. A packed courtroom erupted in applause as Judge Leonid Akubzhanov pronounced sentence on Chikatilo. 57. Page 11

Embattled Bush

President Bush entered last night's second presidential debate in Richmond, Virginia, trailing helplessly in the latest polls, beset by looming scandals, and with Republican officials beginning to abandon ship. Page 12

Monuments hit

Earthquake damage to Egypt's ancient monuments was much more serious than originally assessed, and the damage to landmarks such as the Sphinx is expected to take up to a year to repair. Page 13

Gorbachev charge

A new front has opened in the battle between Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, and Mikhail Gorbachev with Mr Yeltsin's decision to open security files implicating his predecessor in the cover-up of the massacre of Polish officers at Katyn during the second world war. Page 12

Jesus was a man, before and after

In a new twist to the debate over women priests, opponents of the women's lobby have published a paper to prove that Jesus was a man. The report, which comes from the organisation Cost of Conscience, is the latest missive in an increasingly heated battle. It argues that Jesus was male before the crucifixion and remained male after the resurrection.



You saw it here first: Scotland got a preview of the long dark winter ahead as the first snow fell yesterday

BUSINESS

Trafalgar House has been forced to restate its accounts and admit it made a net loss of £44.7 million last year under the threat of legal action by the Financial Reporting Review Panel. Page 21

Cars: Car makers have confounded warnings of a dramatic slump in the motor industry with a big increase in production and hopes of a further boost to exports from the devaluation in sterling. Page 21

Re-birth: Joanna Pitman reports on how Nomura, Tokyo's former colossus, is trying to rebuild its reputation on the Japanese and world financial markets. The re-birth has meant a new attitude to ethics and behaviour. Page 25

SPORT

David Miller: There are moments when you have to admire Graham Taylor's optimism and blind faith. Surveying the scene the morning after the night before — a home draw, thanks to a deflected goal, against a second division nation playing with a single forward — Taylor's conclusion was that what England needed was "a little bit of fine-tuning". Page 38

David Hand: England's rugby players will hope to go one better than their footballing counterparts on their visit to Wembley this week. Graham Taylor's players provided the entertainment but not the desired result in their drawn game with Norway on Wednesday, but Geoff Cooke's team will seek both against Canada. Page 36

MOTOR

Memory fast lane

The two lads stood on the street corner outside the row of back-to-back houses, arms folded and grinning as though the impossible had happened and Luton Town had just won the FA Cup. Neither was more than 20 years old, yet here they were on a cold Monday morning, gawping with delight at a Vauxhall car with all the modern sophistication of a miner's dog. There I was, cooing the little Vauxhall through its three-speed gearbox and steering wheel with about as much effect on the direction of the car as a tiller in a storm. Kevin Eason on the classic car, myth and reality. Page 32

Galleries: The Swagger Portrait at the Tate. Grand Manner Portraits in Britain from Van Dyck to Augustus John, reviewed by Richard Cork. Gainsborough used as illustration. Page 29

Galleries Plus: An interview with Christopher Lloyd, Keeper of the Queen's Pictures. Page 29

Television: Present Imperfect: Don't Mess with God. Matthew D'Ancona on hard-sell evangelism. Page 30

Concert: Logos Ensemble at Norfolk and Norwich Festival Page 30

The lawman

Valerie Grove: Interviews Sir Peter Imbert, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, about life, the British and the law as he interprets it. Page 15

Patrick Stoddart: Says that Lord Rees-Mogg is an eminently sensible man who shows a capacity to be silly when he attacks Coronation Street, surely the most popular, and effective, of British soaps. Page 15

Poignant visit: Next week the Queen goes to Dresden for a visit that will be full of memories for both the British and the Germans. Alan Hamilton reports on a journey full of meaning. Page 14



Lord Wakeham, whose committee is reportedly split over the Jubilee Line extension, was urged to go ahead with the project yesterday. Pages 23



Paul Gascoigne was all right on the night, but what of the other ten? The jury is still out on England under Graham Taylor. Times Sport sums up Pages 38, 40



When two such big guns of American culture as a presidential election and a baseball world series clash, which will win? The answer: baseball. Page 14



Michael Caine, who presented Prince's Youth Business Trust awards yesterday. The award gives £1,000 towards the advertising costs of the successful businesses. Page 16

Tonight's choice

A new series that highlights the casualties of war through the names on off-forgotten war memorials begins on BBC 2. Nightbirds will not want to miss *Repulsion* (C4). Polanski's first film in English. Listings, Page 39

The real culprits

Cyrus Vance, the United Nations negotiator, has denounced the West's "extraordinary" slowness to respond to the Security Council's call for 5,000 more UN troops. The West has been far too slow to deploy. But Mr Vance should reserve his fiercest fire for the Serbs, the aggressors in this war. Page 17

Led from behind

To deserve to survive (Mr Major) ought to show leadership. If he does survive, however, it will more likely be by the less heroic means of keeping his head down while the bullets fly. If a prime minister is to lead, he has to be ahead. Page 17

The right lane

'Breaking the motorway laws and the Highway Code, even by drunk driving, is still widely perceived by motorists as falling in a different category of guilt than other offences. More of a game than the law of the land, in which the driver takes chances, and occasionally gets caught out'. Page 17

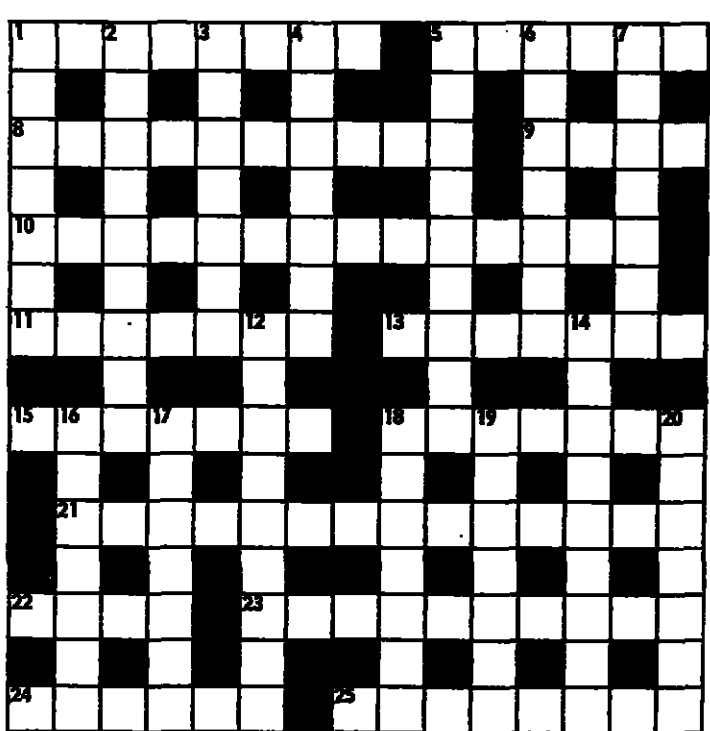
CECIL PARKINSON

'As Secretary of State for Energy in 1988, I announced that the coal industry would be privatised. Nothing that has happened this week makes me regret that decision. Indeed, I believe that managers and miners should be allowed to take over the running of some of the mines marked for closure. I do not want to see redundancy money being invested in a bad business, but perhaps some of the best of British Coal's managers and miners might be better able to exploit market opportunities than their bosses have been in the state sector'. Page 16

'There have been times when if you closed your eyes and slipped into a reverie, you might think that the presidential campaign was all a dream'. — Wall Street Journal

'Thanks to public and media expectations, these debates become a kind of cross between TV game shows and gladiatorial combat'. — Washington Post

TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 19,051



ACROSS

- 1 It's like a lobster to weep about a whiting, say (8).
- 5 Soup first in boy soldiers' school (6).
- 8 Doing for someone out of pity (10).
- 9 Flower girl lost for a part of speech (4).
- 10 Sprinkle with salt, opening a small amount (10,4).
- 11 Put on a new coat, there's a fine mist about at first (7).
- 13 Horse without the carriage? How ghastly! (7).
- 15 Cutting off the end in an op, for example (7).
- 18 Where the Trojan women were laid to rest (7).
- 21 Flimsy fences at York race (8,6).

DOWN

- 2 Irishman rejected for this post (4).
- 3 A very big issue, relatively speaking (10).
- 4 Figures with the penultimate point out of position (6).
- 5 This climber won't be seen in crumples (8).
- 7 Virginia has soft-soled footwear (7).
- 8 Against duck being underdone in hors d'oeuvres (9).
- 9 Teller out for real fun? Just the opposite (7).
- 10 Sniff found in vault in filthy abode (7).
- 11 Bishop in war has to change mind (9).
- 12 I arrive with difficulty in Mediterranean coastal area (7).
- 13 Keeper's dog on a hill (7).
- 14 A wrangle over a theatre cat getting a succulent delicacy (9).
- 15 One of 24, pied (9).
- 16 Yearn to introduce period play (7).
- 17 Musical visited by many (7).
- 18 Stealing a shilling from the receipts (7).
- 19 Object to claret I ordered (7).
- 20 Football forward with an unfair advantage (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,050

MONETARY TENSE
O E O B D T O
V I G A R M O U S E T R A P
E A A R A I I
M I S C H A N G E L E A R N
E S C A I E
N O I S E U N S E A T
T R E C
S Y N A P S I S
O U N A E R A
O U N A M A C H I N E R Y
P E A S E
A S S E M B L E D I A H G
M E A E E Z I R
O S T E N D O R G A N I D I E

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wilt, Gloucestershire, Somerset	704
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	705
Bedfordshire & Herts	706
Northants, Cambs	707
West Mid & Shropshire & Hereford	708
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester	709
Central Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
Lincolnshire	712
Yorkshire & Cleveland	713
North East	714
W & S Yorkshire & Lancashire	715
N & E England	716
W & S Wales & Glamorgan	717
Wales	718
Wales & Glamorgan	719
Wales & Glamorgan	720
Wales & Glamorgan	721
Wales & Glamorgan	722
Wales & Glamorgan	723
Wales & Glamorgan	724
Wales & Glamorgan	725
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Wales & Glamorgan	727
Wales & Glamorgan	728
Wales & Glamorgan	729
Wales & Glamorgan	730

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
C London (within N & S Circs)	732
M1 & M25	733
M1 & M25	734
M1 & M25	735
M1 & M25	736
M1 & M25	737
M1 & M25	738
M1 & M25	739
M1 & M25	740
M1 & M25	741
M1 & M25	742
M1 & M25	743
M1 & M25	744
M1 & M25	745
M1 & M25	746
M1 & M25	747
M1 & M25	748
M1 & M25	749
M1 & M25	750

WEATHER

A cold day with sunny intervals and showers. The showers will be most frequent in the North and East, becoming heavy and prolonged at times, falling as snow on high ground in northern Scotland, Wales and North-East England. Central and southern parts will start off dry with sunny periods but showers will arrive by afternoon. The South-West and South Wales will be mainly dry and bright. Outlook: rain in the north spreading south.

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	18	0.07	7	showers
Amman	18	0.07	7	showers
Antwerp	18	0.07	7	showers
Athens	18	0.07	7	showers
Bahia	18	0.07	7	showers
Bangkok	18	0.07	7	showers
Barcelona	18	0.07	7	showers
Bombay	18	0.07	7	showers
Buenos Aires	18	0.07	7	showers
Calcutta	18	0.07	7	showers
Cairo	18	0.07	7	showers
Cardiff	18	0.07	7	showers
Chennai	18	0.07	7	showers
Copenhagen	18	0.07	7	showers
Dublin	18	0.07	7	showers
Edinburgh	18	0.07	7	showers
Geneva	18	0.07	7	showers
Hong Kong	18	0.07	7	showers
London	18	0.07	7	showers
Los Angeles	18	0.07	7	showers
Madrid	18	0.07	7	showers
Mumbai	18	0.07	7	showers
New York	18	0.07	7	showers
Paris	18	0.07	7	showers
Rangoon	18	0.07	7	showers
San Francisco	18	0.07	7	showers
Seoul	18	0.07	7	showers
Singapore	18	0.07	7	showers
Taipei	18	0.07	7	showers
Tokyo	18	0.07	7	showers
Winnipeg	18	0.07	7	showers
Zurich	18	0.07	7	showers

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Chennai	18	0.07	7	showers
Copenhagen	18	0.07	7	showers
Dublin	18	0.07	7	showers
Edinburgh	18	0.07	7	showers
Geneva	18	0.07	7	showers
Hong Kong	18	0.07	7	showers
London	18	0.07	7	showers
Los Angeles	18	0.07	7	showers
Madrid	18	0.07	7	showers
Mumbai	18	0.07	7	showers
New York	18	0.07	7	showers
Paris	18	0.07	7	showers
Rangoon	18	0.07	7	showers
San Francisco	18	0.07	7	showers
Seoul	18	0.07	7	showers
Singapore	18	0.07	7	showers
Taipei	18	0.07	7	showers
Tokyo	18	0.07	7	showers
Winnipeg	18	0.07	7	showers
Zurich	18	0.07	7	showers

A cold day with sunny intervals and showers.

The showers will be most frequent in the North and East, becoming heavy and prolonged at times, falling as snow on high ground in northern Scotland, Wales and North-East England. Central and southern parts will start off dry with sunny periods but showers will arrive by afternoon. The South-West and South Wales will be mainly dry and bright. Outlook: rain in the north spreading south.

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	18	0.07	7	showers
Amman	18	0.07	7	showers
Antwerp	18	0.07	7	showers
Athens	18	0.07	7	showers
Bahia	18	0.07	7	showers
Bangkok	18	0.07	7	showers
Barcelona	18	0.07	7	showers
Bombay	18	0.07	7	showers
Buenos Aires	18	0.07	7	showers
Calcutta	18	0.07	7	showers
Cairo	18	0.07	7	showers
Cardiff	18	0.07	7	showers
Chennai	18	0.07	7	showers
Copenhagen	18	0.07	7	showers
Dublin	18	0.07	7	showers
Edinburgh	18	0.07	7	showers
Geneva	18	0.07	7	showers
Hong Kong	18	0.07	7	showers
London	18	0.07	7	showers
Los Angeles	18	0.07	7	showers
Madrid	18	0.07	7	showers
Mumbai	18	0.07	7	showers
New York	18	0.07	7	showers
Paris	18	0.07	7	showers
Rangoon	18	0.07	7	showers
San Francisco	18	0.07	7	showers
Seoul	18	0.07	7	showers
Singapore	18	0.07	7	showers
Taipei	18	0.07	7	showers
Tokyo	18	0.07	7	showers
Winnipeg	18	0.07	7	showers
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ABROAD

temperatures at midday yesterday: C, about: t, in F; R, in sun.

	C	F		C	F
Belfast	9	48	Guernsey	10	52
Birmingham	7	45	Inverness	5	41
Birmingham	7	45	Jersey	11	52
Birmingham	7	45	London	9	48
Birmingham	7	45	Manchester	7	45
Birmingham	7	45	Newcastle	6	43
Birmingham	7	45	Newquay	9	48

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Birmingham	12.14	8.0	2.30	8.9
Birmingham	2.83	2.4	12.50	2.4
Birmingham	3.02	4.7	3.18	4.7
Birmingham	9.26	6.5	9.50	8.3
Birmingham	9.39	3.3	9.55	3.3
Birmingham	7.54	5.2	8.10	4.9
Birmingham	10.08	2.0	10.38	1.9
Birmingham	2.80	2.1	4.8	2.2
Birmingham	2.80	5.9	2.35	5.9
Birmingham	1.57	4.3	2.13	4.3



BUSINESS 21-28

Infotech: is it better to rent or buy PCs?



ARTS 29-31

Richard Cork on a sumptuous show of portraiture



SPORT 36-40

Angry racehorse owners threaten to strike

MOTORING
ON
FRIDAY
p32

THE TIMES

FRIDAY OCTOBER 16 1992

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BUSINESS TODAY

BLACK HOLE



Norman Willis says the closure of 31 pits is industrial vandalism that defies economic logic and will produce higher electricity bills
Page 25

FALSE START

Pentland has unexpectedly pulled out of its DM620 million bid for Adidas, the German sportswear group
Tempos, page 22

MAKE WAVES

North West Water is challenging a ruling that it cannot pass on environmental improvement costs
Page 23

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7005 (-0.0060)
German mark 2.4657 (-0.0355)
Exchange index 81.8 (-0.9)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1850.2 (-27.7)
FT-SE 100 2546.6 (-28.1)
New York Dow Jones 3173.87 (-21.61)*
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17628.49 (+284.46)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 9%
3-month interbank: 8 1/4-9 1/4%
3-month eligible bills: 8 1/4-9 1/4%
US: Prime Rate: 8%
Federal Funds: 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills: 2.89-2.89%
30-year bonds: 97 1/2-97 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.7015*
£ DM2.4587
£ Sfr1.2024
£ FF4.3625
£ Yen120.35
£ index: 81.8
ECU: 10.797696
£ SDR1.181123
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$341.75 PM \$341.85
Close \$341.85-342.35
\$201 10-201.60
New York:
Comex \$341.45-341.95*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Nov) \$20.80/bbl (\$20.85)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.4 September (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Restatement strengthens HK Land's hand

Trafalgar is forced to admit loss

By NEIL BENNETT

TRAFALGAR House has restated its accounts and admitted that it made a net loss of £44.7 million in 1991. It has been forced to do so by a threat of legal action from the Financial Reporting Review Panel.

The group's defeat at the hands of the panel will strengthen calls for Hongkong Land, the group's 15 per cent shareholder, to be given two seats on the board and for the departure of Sir Eric Parker, the chief executive. The changes are also expected to hit Trafalgar's profits for the year just ended by at least £10 million.

The construction and engineering group originally reported a pre-tax profit of £122.4 million in the year to September 30, 1991, but the panel has demanded that this should be cut to just £19.7 million because of a property writedown. The group's tax charge is also being increased by £20 million after the panel objected to its treatment of advance corporation tax (ACT) payments. The change increases the tax charge to £60.4 million and pushes the group to a net loss of £44.7 million in its revised figures.

Trafalgar has also been forced to reduce its shareholders' funds by £20 million to £696 million because of the change in ACT accounting. Only ten days ago, the company said in a defence docu-

ment against Hongkong Land's tender offer that "any consequential amendments... should not affect the aggregate of shareholders' funds".

The company's 1991 report and accounts were audited by Touche Ross, which gave the accounts a clean bill of health. Trafalgar caved in only hours before the panel was due to take legal action under the Companies Act. The panel had given the company until yesterday evening.

Last year, Trafalgar shifted a portfolio of commercial property from current to fixed assets, and charged a £102.7 million fall in its value straight to reserves. The panel said this should be taken through the profit and loss account.

Until now, Trafalgar has treated part of its ACT payments as an asset, to be offset against future mainstream tax on its British operations. This gave the company a £55 million asset in its balance sheet.

The panel objected to this and the company has reduced the reserve by £20 million. It will suffer a further charge, estimated at £10 million, in its 1992 figures, due on Decem-

ber 1. Analysts expect pre-tax profits of £60 million, which will include a heavy writedown on housebuilding land.

Sir Eric is thought to have been opposed to the accounting changes but Trafalgar decided that its reputation would be damaged by a court appearance, even if it won the argument.

The defeat comes at a difficult time for Trafalgar's board, which is planning a complete management reorganisation and negotiating with Hongkong Land over board representation. Land has said it wants Sir Charles Powell and Rodney Leach, two of its directors, on Trafalgar's board.

Sir Charles said the announcement underlined Land's argument that Trafalgar's board needed to be enlarged.

The changes in Trafalgar's figures are the latest in a string of victories for the Financial Reporting Review Panel, which was set up in February last year to monitor the accounts of large companies. Last year, it forced Williams Holdings to change the calculation of its earnings per share, and confronted Ultramar on its treatment of ACT.

Sydney Thredgold, the panel's secretary, said: "We want to see good financial reporting and we were able to settle this without going to court."

Comment, page 25

Carmakers defy gloom with surprise leap in output

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CARMAKERS have confounded warnings of a dramatic slump in the motor industry with a big increase in production and hopes of a further boost to exports from the devaluation in sterling.

Output leapt 14.5 per cent in September in stark contrast to the fall recorded in August of 7.7 per cent, which contributed to gloomy industrial production figures published on Wednesday by the Central Statistical Office.

The provisional statistics issued by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders are the first glimmer of hope for the government that the nation's biggest manufacturing sector can survive relatively intact, in spite of recent redundancies and short-time working.

British car producers have remained remarkably resilient in the face of the 2.5 per cent drop in sales so far this year in their domestic market.

Exports from manufacturers such as Nissan, Vauxhall, Rover and Peugeot Talbot have helped keep assembly lines running. Ford, with its large dependence on the home market, has so far been the only major casualty among the mass manufacturers. It has introduced short-time working at its three biggest UK plants.

Output of cars in September

was 103,738, 14.48 per cent more than the 90,613 recorded in the same month of 1991. Production for export was 60,806 against the September 1991 total of 48,493.

Commercial vehicle output was also up at 19,228 compared with 16,400 in September last year. Exports



Sir Hal: sales effort

increased 24.83 per cent to 9,307.

Total car output in the first three-quarters of this year is at 944,382, up 1.88 per cent on the same period of last year.

The SMMT was last night examining the figures for signs of a "glitch" that may have caused the jump in

output, but officials were confident that the September performance reflected the long-term strength of the industry.

Carmakers say the devaluation of sterling has dramatically lowered costs, making UK cars and components more attractive abroad.

Exports were 13.26 per cent at 392,364 in the first nine months reflecting a fall in demand mainly from the reunified Germany.

However, manufacturers are hoping that devaluation will reverse the downward trend.

Sir Hal Miller, chief executive of the SMMT, said yesterday: "I am sure that if the rest of UK business had put as much effort into selling product at home and overseas as the motor industry has done, our economy might well have been moving out of recession."

British steel output in September averaged 304,800 tonnes a week, up 11 per cent from August, according to provisional seasonally unadjusted statistics released by British Steel and the steel trade association. But the September level was still down 10.3 per cent by comparison with September last year. Weekly production for the first nine months of the year averaged 314,800 tonnes, 0.1 per cent less than the same period last year.

Steered to a fortune by Express

By JONATHAN PRYNN

TWO managers who bought into National Express Group, the inter-city coach service company privatised in 1988, stand to make personal fortunes through the company's planned flotation on the stock market in December.

Ray McEnhill, chief executive, and Adam Mills, deputy chief executive, have a 25 per cent stake in the company, which will be valued at between £50 million and £90 million after the issue.

Although the size of their original investment in the company, through a buy-in in July last year, is not known, it is not likely to have been more than £2 million of the £10.25 million acquisition price. Since the buy-in, which was backed by a syndicate of venture capitalists, the performance of the company has been turned round from annual losses of about £1 million to an operating profit of £5.1 million for the year to end-December.

A profit forecast for the current year will be made at the time of the flotation, which will be a joint placing and offer for sale. The company fell into the red after being bought out by its management from the government.

National Express has three main operating subsidiaries providing scheduled coach services throughout Europe.

Recession fears knock sterling

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE pound retreated further against the mark, dipping to DM2.4580 at its weakest, as foreign exchange market fears that Britain's recession is deepening worsened already poor sentiment for the currency.

The decision of the Bundesbank council yesterday to leave its key lending rates unchanged dashed any lingering hopes that Germany would lead a general reduction of interest rates in Europe. This weakened the dollar against the mark, and dragged sterling down with it.

The political and economic fallout of the government's decision to close 31 coal mines, plus disappointing unemployment figures for September, fuelled City anxiety that, in the absence of moves to restore consumer and corporate confidence, the economy is heading for a fresh downward lurch.

There was some concern too that the emergency Community summit in Birmingham today could reinforce the view that a two, or multi-tier monetary union is likely to emerge in Europe. Such a prospect is expected to hurt the weaker currencies, including sterling.

The confidence indicator dropped to minus 34 in October from minus 26 in September.

base rate of 9 per cent, but three-month money was indicating hopes of lower interest rates, with 8 1/4 per cent.

The pound stood at DM2.4657 at the official 4pm London close, down more than three and half pennings from Wednesday, but fractionally above its opening yesterday. It eased back more than half a cent to \$1.7005 and dropped 0.9 on its trade-weighted index to 81.9.

The Bundesbank yesterday issued revised figures for German broad money supply growth, shading down the August figure to 8.8 per cent from the 9 per cent announced earlier. But any hope that that might raise of policy easing is likely to be dispelled by the September figures. These are expected to show growth in excess of 10 per cent.

The bank has said it cannot hit its M3 target range of 3.5 to 5.5 per cent this year, but remains concerned about the inflationary pressures the measure is indicating.

Meanwhile, results of a Gallup survey for the European Community, issued last night, showed the worst one-month slump in consumer confidence in Britain since the mid-Seventies.

The confidence indicator dropped to minus 34 in October from minus 26 in September.

Postwar record for men out of work

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE number of unemployed rose for the 29th consecutive month in September to a total of 2,843,300 as manufacturers shed labour heavily amid fears that the economy is about to take another downward lurch.

Unemployment among men climbed to a postwar record of 2,160,900 last month, some 7,000 higher than at the previous peak in May 1986. This represented 13.4 per cent of the male workforce, against the previous high of 13.2 per cent.

With the trend in unemployment worsening, and 30,000 jobs to be cut by British Coal, the jobless total is on course to pass the previous record of 3,124,000 next year. Despite hopes that lower interest rates and a more competitive pound will lift the economy, forecasters fear that recovery will be so sluggish that unemployment could climb to about 3,500,000 before starting to fall in the mid-1990s.

But the depressed state of the labour market has forced down wage inflation, which augurs well for British competitiveness. Underlying average earnings growth for the whole economy slowed to an annual 5.75 per cent in August, the lowest for 25 years, from 6 per cent in July.

Importantly, it was a matching slowdown in service sector earnings growth, driven by lower pay deals, that reduced the whole economy rate. Average earnings growth in manufacturing and the production industries was stuck at 6.5 per cent. With productivity showing improvement, unit wage costs in manufacturing dropped to 2.3 per cent in the three months to August, compared with 10 per cent at the end of 1990. British unit wage costs in the second quarter were rising more slowly than in Japan or western Germany.

Provisional government figures showed that the seasonally adjusted jobless total increased by 32,200 in September to the highest since May 1987. This meant that 10.1 per cent of the workforce were on the dole last month, up from 9.9 per cent in August. The jobless rate was last in double digits in mid-1987. Unadjusted unemployment increased by 1,858 last month to 2,847,366, also 10.1 per cent of the workforce.

Although the September rise in unemployment, which hit all regions except Northern Ireland, was below the 51,000 jump in August, the average increase over the last three months has moved up to 39,700 from 23,900 in the previous three months.

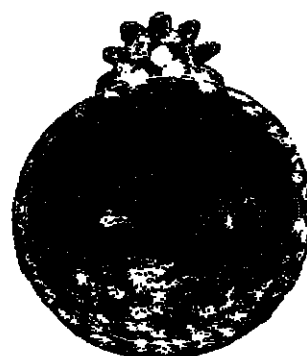
Industry, struggling with the longest recession since the 1930s, has axed jobs sharply in recent months. The number of jobs in manufacturing fell by a record 51,000 in August to 4,419,000, a drop of 378,000 since the same month in 1991. In the early eighties, some 8 million people worked in manufacturing. Rolls-Royce, British Aerospace and Ford all unveiled big redundancy schemes last month.

The number of vacancies at employment exchanges fell by 11,900 last month to the lowest for more than a decade.

"I hate all that Persian gear!"

Fortunately, appreciation for "Persian gear" has increased somewhat since Horace waded in with this invective, back in the 1st century B.C.

British ceramics and glass are currently selling extremely well at auction; if you have any pieces that you would like to include in our next sale, please contact us on the number opposite.



A London 'Bleu Persian' Bleeding Bowl, late 17th century. Sold by Sotheby's on 7th October for £14,300.

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS SALE: 15TH NOVEMBER.
Our forthcoming sale of British Ceramics and Glass will take place on 9th February in London. If you are interested in including items of your own in this sale, please contact Peter Arney on (071) 408 5134, as soon as possible.

THE WORLD'S LEADING FINE ART AUCTION HOUSE
SOTHEBY'S
FOUNDED 1744

IBM loses \$30m a day

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

INTERNATIONAL Business Machines stunned Wall Street by reporting losses of almost \$30 million a day in its third quarter. The world's largest computer maker said the outlook remained gloomy for the rest of the year, which has raised doubts over its ability to maintain the dividend.

IBM shares slumped \$5 to \$73, and led the Dow Jones industrial average down almost 19 points at one stage.

John Akers, IBM chairman, said: "I'm disappointed by our third-quarter results. Our business was adversely affected by economic turmoil in Europe, particularly at the close of the quarter, and by persistent economic weakness in the United States and Japan."

The \$2.8 billion loss in July, August and September compares with a \$177 million profit for the same period last year, and came on sales up 1 per cent to \$14.7 billion.

IBM is losing 40,000 jobs this year, on redundancy terms so attractive that the number of staff accepting was double the target figure of 20,000. That cost of \$4.43 billion was taken against third-quarter earnings, but even before these were charged, IBM's operating profit at \$86 million were less than half what had been expected. Mr Akers told analysts that the outlook for the full year remained uncertain, but in response to fears of a dividend cut, he said IBM's cash flow remained strong.

For the first nine months of this year, IBM made a \$498 million profit against a \$1.4 billion loss on sales ahead 1 per cent to \$44.96 billion. Last year, IBM plunged \$2.8 billion into the red, its first loss on record, as sales dropped for the first time since 1946. In this third quarter, hardware sales were down 9.9 per cent to \$7 billion, software sales up 11.3 per cent to \$2.7 billion, and maintenance income up 7.1 per cent to \$1.9 billion. Costs and expenses soared 35.4 per cent to \$18.7 billion.

Wall Street, page 24

Pentland walks away from Adidas after long, hard look at M Tapie

PENTLAND has, after a surprisingly long pause for thought, come round to the view that the purchase of the Adidas running shoe business, as it stands under the stewardship of Bernard Tapie, the colourful French entrepreneur, is probably not a good idea.

Pentland signed confidentiality agreements when the deal was done in July and is unable to say what the due diligence review has uncovered. But the company has been prepared to sacrifice a degree of corporate credibility by losing the second big deal in its history, after the failed takeover bid for Parker Pen in 1988.

M Tapie, it will be remembered, was forced to abandon a ministerial career after fraud charges were brought against him and has since concentrated on rescuing his debt-plagued empire. He was clearly a keen seller.

Pentland was to pay DM 620 million for the 80 per cent stake it did already not own in Bernard Tapie Finance GmbH, owner of Adidas, to Mr Tapie's French holding company.

It is clear that the problems uncovered were neither few nor minor. Speculation centres around possible manufacturing contracts already signed, uncertain levels or value of stocks and other fixed assets, or — the most likely suspect — unexpected levels of debt lurking somewhere within the ramshackle corporate structure.

Pentland shares dropped 10p to 132p yesterday. The company has \$300 million of cash left in the bank and, it admits, no further deals in the pending tray. That cash represents a cushion of 85p a share and will probably contribute £24 million to the expected £32 million of pre-tax profits this year. Other assets include the Speedo swimwear brand.

A cash mountain is a splendid thing in a recession, but the market will demand some reassurance about where it will eventually be spent before the shares make further progress.



Shares savaged since the spring: Allen Lloyd of Lloyds Chemists

Lloyds Chemists

ONE company that will not be winning any awards at the Investor Relations Society's annual dinner next week is Lloyds Chemists. The company's shares used to be premium-rated, but they have been savaged since the spring. At the time of the MacCarthy acquisition, in March, they were rated at about 15 times expected earnings; now they are worth about half that.

The market has always harboured doubts about Lloyds's acquisition account-

ing policies but was prepared to put them to one side while it could see where the growth was coming from. That changed during the summer, when the shares fell more than 40 per cent amid concerns about reductions in the pricing of generic drugs.

The shares have not responded to gargantuan efforts by the management to communicate, though results have continued to exceed expectations. Pre-tax profits for the year to June 30 were up 78 per cent to £36.9 million, fully diluted earnings rising by 20 per cent to 25.05p. The dividend has

been increased by a third to 5.55p. Stripping out MacCarthy's impact, underlying sales growth from the chemist stores was a healthy 9 per cent. Since the year-end, the growth rate has slowed to about 2 per cent, reflecting poor summer retail conditions.

With a full contribution from MacCarthy, the company is capable of making £51 million profit before tax in the current year. At yesterday's closing price of 215p, up 3p, the shares remain stuck on the lowly rating of 7.5 times prospective earnings. On any fundamental valuation, the

shares are cheap. But with market sentiment remaining nervous, the re-rating may take time.

Etam

ESSEX Man may have helped the Conservatives win the General Election, but Etam should perhaps be grateful to Essex girl for its recovery.

Despite the depressed conditions gripping the high street, the cheap and cheerful fashion retailer, whose operations include the Etam chain, Snob, Tammy Girl and Peter Brown, bucked the trend as first-half like-for-like sales rose by a healthy 7.2 per cent. Improved margins helped pre-tax profits jump to £1.2 million (£35,000) in the 28 weeks to August 15, on sales ahead 7.4 per cent to £105.8 million from 238 (239) outlets.

Gearing fell to 2 per cent, against 12 per cent previously, with borrowings expected to be eliminated by the year-end. Net interest costs fell to £25,000 (£42,000). The interim dividend is raised 10 per cent to 1.65p.

Etam is highly operationally geared, so each percentage point increase in sales results in a corresponding 5 per cent rise in profits. Sales since the half year are up, although consumer demand is weak and Etam has seen a deterioration in sales since Black Wednesday, along with most other retailers.

Oceana Investment Corporation, the South African controlled group that failed last year to win control of Etam, still has a 34 per cent stake and can now bid again.

Sara Carter at Smith New Court is looking for full-year profits of £15.5 million, which on yesterday's close of 243p, down 5p, puts the shares on a forward price/earnings multiple of about 16.3. This rating is at the top end for the retail sector but is justified for a tightly run company whose fundamentals are sound. There is no doubt the shares have been supported by an Oceana bid premium, but they are fairly valued.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Dismissal sought for Clifford's BCCI case

CLARK Clifford, an adviser to several former American presidents, who is charged with making millions of dollars in illegal profits from the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International, is to ask a New York judge to drop criminal charges against him. Lawyers for Mr Clifford, 85, who has denied the allegation, are to seek a motion that the charges be dismissed on the grounds that Mr Clifford is so ill that he is likely to suffer a fatal heart attack if forced to go to trial.

In addition to criminal proceedings, Mr Clifford is charged under federal law with deceiving banking regulators over the true ownership of First American Bankshares Inc, a bank based in Washington, in which the collapsed BCCI had a secret shareholding. Mr Clifford's Washington lawyer said that he is considering making a similar application for these charges also to be dismissed on health grounds. BCCI collapsed in July 1991.

Air London slides

AIR London International, the air charter broker, saw profits before tax slip 10 per cent to £1.1 million from £1.2 million in the year to end-July. Turnover declined to £17.8 million from £19.3 million. Earnings per share were 8.1p against 8.9p. A final dividend of 1.9p (1.8p) a share is being paid to make a total for the year of 3.5p compared with 3.2p last time. A plan to fly holiday makers to Spain and Italy backfired earlier in the year when three aircraft owned by JAT, the Yugoslav national airline, were taken out of service as a result of international sanctions.

John Maunders rises

LOWER interest costs helped John Maunders Group, the Manchester housebuilder, to buck the trend with pre-tax profits ahead 10.3 per cent to £4.01 million in the year to end-June, despite "atrocious" trading conditions. Turnover decreased 5.3 per cent to £51.6 million. However, the number of legal completions increased by 12.7 per cent to 783 units sold, against 695 previously, although the average selling price declined from £78,300 to £65,900. Earnings climbed to 10.92p a share, up from 9.81p. The final dividend is maintained at 2.65p, giving an unchanged total of 4.85p.

Gleeson boosts payout

MJ GLEESON, the construction and civil engineering group, has raised the total dividend from 11.86p a share to 12.75p, with a 9.4p final, despite a fall in pre-tax profits from £11.85 million to £9.9 million in the year to end-June. The company said the 7.5 per cent dividend increase reflected balance sheet strength and cash flow performance. It said the broad geographical and operational spread of activities continued to provide a measure of protection against the worst effects of the recession.

Recovery at Radamec

RADAMEC, which passed the interim dividend last year, is paying 0.5p a share for the half year to end-June after a recovery in taxable profits from £56,000 to £365,000, exceeding the total sum for the previous full year. Earnings rose from 0.3p a share to 2p. The electronics and precision mechanical engineer lifted operating profits from £229,000 to £482,000 despite a static turnover of £5.8 million (£5.7 million). Defence systems performed well, with overseas naval business exceeding British business.

UDO tumbles 37%

UDO Holdings, the office equipment supplier, has announced a 37 per cent fall in taxable profits to £5.7 million in the year to end-July after "very difficult trading conditions" throughout the second half. Turnover fell from £55.8 million to £51.7 million because of falling orders, mainly from the construction industry. There is a £17,000 exceptional item for additional reorganisation costs. A final 4.76p (4.13p) dividend makes a total of 6.7p for the year, up 16.5 per cent. Earnings per share fell from 20.78p to 13.66p.

Tamaris trims losses

TAMARIS, the troubled nursing home operator that completed a partial refinancing last month, saw pre-tax losses narrow from £2.3 million to £0.95 million in the year to end-March. Turnover declined to £2.8 million (£3.6 million). The loss per share, fully diluted, eased from 14.77p to 4.57p. There is no dividend (nil). Three directors resigned at the time of the refinancing. Barry McFadden, a former director of SG Warburg and Hambros Bank, has been appointed chairman and Barbara Ann Maxwell managing director.

Tudor slips into red

TUDOR, a USM-quoted tiling group, reported a pre-tax loss of £117,000 (£94,000 profit) in the six months to June 30. Turnover increased to £7.8 million (£6.4 million), offset by a rise in interest charges and exceptional redundancy costs of £59,000. There is a loss per share of 1.06p (earnings of 1.24p) and no interim dividend (0.5p). Costs are being reduced through a programme of rationalisation, and Tudor hopes to pay a final dividend, provided there is no further decline in the building industry.

Kazakh oil venture

CHEVRON, the American oil company, is forming a joint venture with the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan to exploit the Tengiz oil field, Russian news agencies reported. Tengiz is thought to have reserves up to 35 billion barrels. Current output is 60,000 barrels per day. The deal was concluded during a visit to Kazakhstan by Kenneth Derr, Chevron's head, who met President Nursultan Nazarbayev. The 50-50 venture begins on January 1.

Leisure group selling offshoots after loss

BY JON ASHWORTH

EUROPEAN Leisure, the discotheque and snooker hall group that owns the Hippodrome and Camden Palace nightclubs in London, crashed to a pre-tax loss of £45.6 million (£5.2 million profit) last year as a result of exceptional write-downs and trading losses.

The heavily geared group, formerly run by Michael Ward, is disposing of a fifth of its clubs and restaurants as part of a cost-cutting programme. Trading profits eased from £13 million to £9.6 million in the year to June 30. Ian Rock, chief executive, said only five out of 30 establishments had been sold; 16 more were in the hands of solicitors. Turnover declined

Allied London halts house construction

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

THE profits recovery continued at Allied London Properties, but the property investor and housebuilder unveiled further write-downs on house-building assets. It is also suspending the construction of new homes.

The company reports pre-tax profits of £1.49 million in the year to end-June, against a loss of £4.76 million last time, as net rental income grew 19.5 per cent to £17.1 million in the face of "extremely difficult" conditions.

However, Allied's profits were depressed by a £3.5 million (£10 million) exceptional charge, relating to further write-downs in the value of housebuilding assets. As the grim housing market conditions continued, with a further decline in both house prices and completions, the com-

pany has decided to suspend new home building and not to acquire further land for housebuilding.

The net asset value fell to 90p (123p) per share, and on a fully diluted basis, net worth declined to 100p (121p) a share.

Sir Geoffrey Leigh, chairman, said the group's financial position "remains sound with significant cash balances and adequate financial facilities if so required". The company had £30 million of cash on deposit at the end of June.

The final dividend is being maintained at 2.455p a share, giving an unchanged total of 3.53p for the year.

The loss per share is reduced to 1.5p, against a deficit of 10p a share last time. The share price remained unchanged at 43p.

Haywards Heath Building Society records £2.8m loss

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE Haywards Heath Building Society lost £2.8 million in the eight months to the end of June, it is revealed in the merger document sent to its members this week.

The society, which has assets of £121 million is being taken over by the £4 billion Yorkshire Building Society.

The loss is caused by provisions of £4.14 million for the tiny, five-branch society. Residential property accounts for £3.16 million of this and three self-build projects for £970,000. The loss and provisions were very much in line with what the Yorkshire expected, a spokesman said last night.

For a society of its size, these provisions are huge. The Yorkshire's provisions for residential property for the

first six months of the year were £13.8 million. More than 3 per cent of the Haywards Heath mortgage accounts are 12 months or more in arrears, double the figure for the Yorkshire.

At the time the merger was announced in July, the Yorkshire said it was providing a £50 million standby facility for the West Sussex society. Last year the Haywards Heath made a pre-tax profit of just £104,000 for the year to October 1991.

The reserve assets ratio of the Haywards Heath is 2.99 per cent, well below the industry average of about 5 per cent and the Yorkshire's 6.35 per cent. After the merger, this will be slightly diluted to 6.25 per cent. Usually the members of a small society only get a bonus

to share out reserves over and above the level of the larger society. In this case, Haywards Heath investors are being offered 0.25 per cent. Borrowers will have their mortgages cut to the Yorkshire rate, currently 0.1 per cent cheaper.

While the Building Societies Commission did not propel the Haywards Heath towards the merger, it should take place at the end of the year if a special meeting on November 16 sanctions the takeover and the commission approves it the following month.

Larger building societies had expected more small ones to need rescuing during this very difficult year for the housing market. They are braced for calls from the commission for their assistance with weaker societies.

Gatt delay could deepen world recession



"Time is running out": Arthur Dunkel, head of Gatt

THE global economic recession will worsen without a successful conclusion to talks aimed at liberalising world trade, Arthur Dunkel, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, said yesterday. The negotiations are currently stalled.

"The situation of the world economy is such that if the signal [for a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of Gatt] is not given very soon, we will add to the difficulties," Mr Dunkel said. He is attending the first session of the Europe-East Asia Economic Forum, which aims to boost trade and investment ties between the two regions. The main obsta-

FROM REUTERS IN HONG KONG

cle to an accord in the Uruguay Round, which could pump an extra \$200 billion annually into the world economy, is disagreement between the European Community and America on how far European farm subsidies should be cut.

Mr Dunkel said time was ebbing away before a February deadline for the US administration to present results of the negotiations to Congress. "If we miss the deadline, we are in great trouble."

German and Japanese trade officials, who were scheduled to hold talks with Mr Dunkel during the three-day meeting, criticised France for holding up an early agree-

ment and expressed hopes of a breakthrough.

Lorenz Schomerus, assistant secretary in Germany's economics ministry, said the French government's refusal to compromise on farm subsidies was the biggest obstacle. France had made clear its view that now was not the time to conclude, he said. He believed the matter would be discussed at today's EC summit in Birmingham.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, France's minister of industry and foreign trade, was unable to attend the Hong Kong meeting because of a meeting with Carla Hills, the American trade representative, before the Birmingham summit.

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North West Water barks at watchdog plan to cut price rise

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT,
FINANCIAL EDITOR

NORTH West Water has challenged an attempt by Ian Byatt, the director general of water services, to force it to reduce price increases by 1.5 per cent next year.

The proposed cuts would reclaim for consumers the benefit of lower construction costs in its investment programme than had been expected. North West has, however, issued a counter notice asking the regulator to take account of much larger increases in spending required by new environmental rules imposed since annual price limits were fixed at privatisation. North West says it can absorb these extra costs but not cut its price limits.

At the other end of the scale, Southern Water, which had less benefit from lower construction costs, has effectively emerged from the price-cutting exercise with higher price rises than previously scheduled, to pay for extra costs. It is being allowed to add back voluntary price deferrals total-

The industry regulator has set price rise limits for the water companies; one has objected

ling 1.4 per cent made in previous years. In 1993-4, Southern's prices will rise by 3.9 per cent in real terms, instead of 3.5 per cent, and could add back a further 1 per cent in 1994-5. Its shares gained 14p to 414p.

Other companies have agreed cuts in differing deals with the regulator, while South West is still negotiating. Ofwat's proposals, issued as private notices to the ten privatised groups and to nine other water suppliers this month, aimed to secure an average cut of 1 per cent in the prices due to take effect in 1993-4.

North West said Ofwat had asked it to increase prices by 3.5 per cent in real terms next year, rather than the 5 per cent fixed in its licence, as well as making permanent the 0.5 per cent it deferred voluntarily this year. Ofwat's demand equated to the £94 million estimated saving on construction costs from those foreseen as measured by the national construction price index.

The company claims, however, that it has been obliged to spend £430 million more than envisaged because of new legal obligations imposed by the European Community, the National Rivers Authority and the agriculture ministry. These include an estimated £285 million bill for improving bathing waters.

Under the licence issued to suppliers, price limits can be adjusted each year to pass the cost of extra obligations through to customers or to claw back construction costs if they are lower than assumed. Thus far, however, all the companies have absorbed the extra obligations except South West Water, which had its

price limits increased to clean up local beaches.

North West, which was originally scheduled to spend £5 billion over 10 years, argues that it cannot delay spending to fulfil statutory obligations and that any delay in planned investment would reduce job opportunities in its region. Shares in North West, which changed its finance director this week, dipped 7p to 427p.

Under the regulatory rules, Ofwat and North West have until the end of the year to come to an agreement. If they fail, the company can appeal against Mr Byatt's determination to the Mergers and Monopolies Commission.

Thames Water has now reached an agreement with Ofwat that will rule out any further unilateral claims until after the director general's full review of price limits from 1995 onwards. Thames will forego its right to claim that extra costs be passed through.

Under the two-year deal, Thames will reduce its previously agreed price rises by 0.4 per cent a year.

Mike Hoffman, the group's chief executive, said the new agreement "goes a long way towards restoring the principle of medium-term incentive-based price regulation".

Yorkshire Water has reached a complex two-year deal under which it will effectively reduce planned price increases by 1 per cent for 1994-5, while Anglian will forego 0.5 per cent in each year and reduce tariffs for metered customers further.

Seven Trent and Northumbria have agreed cuts in 1993-4 prices of 0.9 per cent and 1 per cent, respectively, while Wessex will cut 0.5 per cent and reduce the charges it makes to put in services to new premises to help the housing industry. Bournemouth Water, one of the private water suppliers, has agreed a 2 per cent cut in price limits. Welsh Water had already volunteered lower price increases.

Comment, page 25

Consumer prices rise 0.2% in US

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN government figures showed that consumer price inflation rose a modest 0.2 per cent last month, boosted by increases in fruit and vegetable prices.

However, market hopes that low inflation in a subdued economy would allow the Federal Reserve Board to cut interest rates still further, started to fade this week. Remarks by Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman, suggesting he is no longer sure lower interest rates are necessary, helped rein back expectations of any monetary easing.

The Fed is likely to leave interest rates unchanged until after the election on November 3 for fear of being seen to

have acted in support of the Bush administration.

Last month's price increase, which followed a 0.3 per cent gain in August, was seen by analysts as fresh confirmation that inflation is well under control. This was consistent with the picture provided on Wednesday by the latest wholesale prices.

The small rise in the consumer price index in September allowed the government to limit the annual adjustment in social security benefits to 3 per cent, the smallest rise for six years. In the first three quarters of this year, annual inflation was 2.9 per cent, slightly below the 1991 level.

Real average weekly earnings data, adjusted for seasonal factors and inflation, meanwhile showed a fall of 1.3 per cent last month, reversing most of the 1.5 per cent rise in August. The September fall mainly reflected fewer hours worked. First-time claims for unemployment benefits fell by 16,000 for the week ending October 3, the lowest in seven weeks. This took the claims total to 383,000.

Lynn Martin, the labour secretary, said yesterday's first-time claims for benefits were a "strong sign" the labour market was continuing to improve. The latest fall was the lowest for two years and follows other indicators of improvement in the jobs market.



Greenspan: election issue

Tube extension urged at Link ceremony

By MATTHEW BOND
AND ANGELA MACRAE

MICHAEL Pickard, chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation, called on the government to press ahead with the Jubilee Line extension. Mr Pickard was speaking at the opening ceremony for the £251 million Limehouse Link, the four-lane road tunnel which, when it opens to traffic next May, will complete a four-lane highway joining the City to the Isle of Dogs.

"Today there is good news from the Limehouse Link, we are having good news from the Docklands Light Railway and we are very much hoping that the efforts being put in now by the private sector for the contribution to the Jubilee Line will be met," he said.

Mr Pickard's reference to the light railway followed news that the £250 million extension from Poplar to Beckton is expected to open in May.

A spectacular footbridge over the new tracks was opened yesterday by John

Redwood, minister for inner cities, who said the bridge, which was partly funded by the development corporation, and the Limehouse Link and light railway extensions, which were completely funded by it, were proof of the government's commitment to improving Docklands infrastructure. But the minister made no mention of the Jubilee line.

Like the proposed tube extension, the cost of the footbridge was partly funded by the private sector, in this case by Wetherby, a private company controlled by the al Maktoum family and owner of a nearby site.

Wetherby, which met more than three-quarters of the bridge's £2.5 million cost, said it was still planning to build a substantial hotel and office development on its site.

But Robert Gibbons, chairman, said the government's Jubilee Line decision was crucial. "It is extremely important to those of us in the private sector that the government does recognise the critical importance of infrastructure. Coinciding

with the opening of the tunnel, a committee chaired by Lord Wakeham met yesterday afternoon to decide whether to build the £1.8 billion extension to the Jubilee Line.

The committee is likely to confirm speculation that the government has reconsidered its planned transfer of 2,000 civil servants to Docklands.

Canary Wharf's administrators and banks have tried to make a private-sector contribution to the tube line extension conditional on the civil servants moving to Canary Wharf and not to one of three other Docklands sites that have been proposed. Both the Jubilee Line and the relocation of the civil servants from the environment department are expected to fall victim to government expenditure cuts.

There are believed to be differences of opinion among members of the Wakeham committee — the prime minister, Lord Wakeham, Michael Howard, Michael Heseltine, Michael Portillo and John McGreggor.

Tempos, page 22



Annoyed: Bernard Tapie claims Pentland is going back on its word and demanding a cut in the price agreed

Pentland runs away from Adidas

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

PENTLAND Group, the cash-rich holding company that made its name and fortune out of Reebok, has pulled out of its running shoes and dashed away from another of the big names in sportswear, the German Adidas concern.

Pentland had planned on buying the 80 per cent it does not already own in Adidas from Bernard Tapie, the French businessman who owns the Marseilles football club, for DM420 million, and has spent three months on a due diligence review.

But the British company has surprised the stock market with the news that the investigation "revealed a number of matters of which Pentland was not previously aware". No satisfactory agreement with the seller, M Tapie's French vehicle, on how to resolve these concerns had been reached, and the acquisition would, therefore, not now take place.

But as a consolation prize, Pentland would take a pre-tax profit of £20 million from the hedging arrangements put in place to fund it when the deal was negotiated.

The news sent the Pentland share price back 10 to 132p, while sparking an immediate angry protest from the French. M Tapie accused Pentland of lying, and of going back on its word and demanding a cut in the price agreed. Elie Fellous, chairman of the debt-burdened French business, criticised the "bad attitude" of Pentland. He said there were other unacceptable demands.

Frank Farrant, the Pentland finance director, said a confidentiality agreement signed with the French precluded any details being given of the results of the review. "We found a number of problems, it wasn't just one or two, that we viewed very seriously." His company was still prepared to acquire the rest of Adidas and was in "reactive mode".

Tempos, page 22

Hi-Tec Sports tumbles into red

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE days of the £100 training shoes are over and the resulting price war has sent Hi-Tec Sports, one of the biggest British names in the field, into the red for the first time.

Hi-Tec announced pre-tax losses of £2.84 million for the six months to end-July, against profits of £3.74 million last time, and has trimmed the interim dividend from 1.65p

to 1.0p. Frank van Wessel, chairman, who owns 55 per cent, has said that while the company would be profitable in the second half, there was no guarantee of profits for the full year.

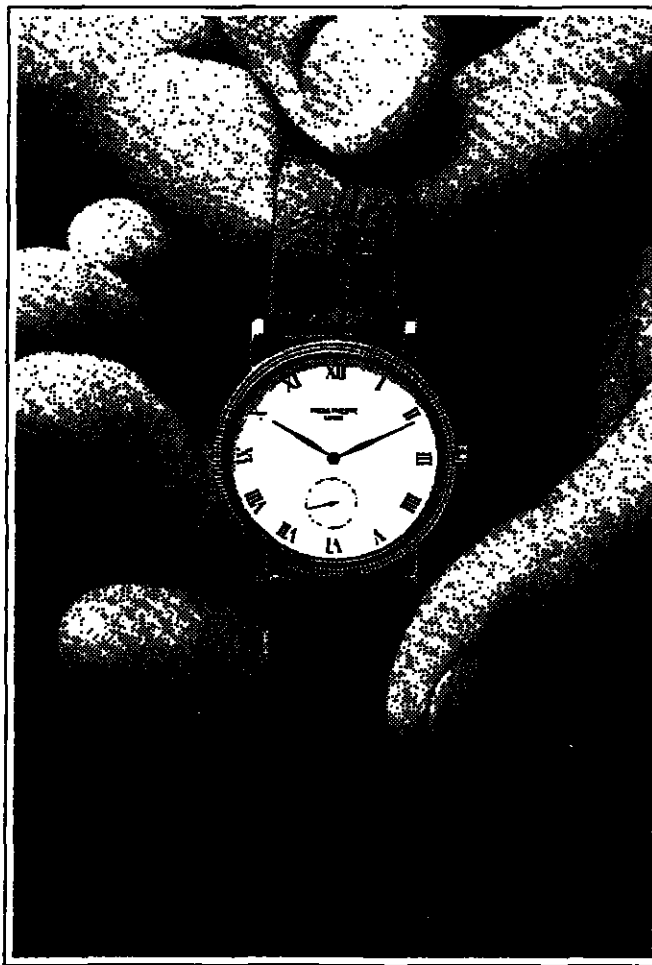
Hi-Tec saw sales collapse and prices for its products fall in Britain when producers of highly-priced brands from America, including companies such as Nike and Reebok, took to dumping unwanted stock in Britain. The

price of trainers fell sharply at all levels of the market.

The news sent Hi-Tec shares, as high as 205p before January's rights issue at 150p, down 7p to 41p. Sales in Britain fell by half in the first six months and the business lost £900,000 at the operating level. Hi-Tec failed to expand as rapidly as planned in mainland Europe, and that division lost £1.4 million. Paul Possamai, the director responsible for Europe, has resigned.

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STOCK MARKET

[illegible]

Age Group	No (%)	Yes (%)	Don't know (%)	No answer (%)
18-24	15	45	35	5
25-34	20	40	30	10
35-44	25	35	25	15
45-54	30	30	20	20
55-64	35	25	15	25
65+	40	20	10	30

1

44-150

Trafalgar in the firing line

The Financial Reporting Review Panel is barely 18 months old, but it already has the look of a big game hunter in the financial jungle. Trafalgar House is the panel's biggest trophy so far and its climbdown shows that even the largest companies will succumb to the threat of bad publicity. Trafalgar's board could not afford to be seen in the spotlight of a court appearance while it was locked in talks with Hongkong Land, its new shareholder. The damage to the company is, admittedly, not great since the City had already discounted the "funnies" in its accounts.

In any case, the presence of Hongkong Land has made analysts more concerned about the real value of Trafalgar's constituent businesses than its profits or shareholders' funds. The incident has undoubtedly strengthened Hongkong Land's case for board representation, but its argument was a strong one anyway. The panel's decision is the essence of good sense. Trafalgar's sleight of hand in reclassifying its commercial properties as fixed assets did not convince many, and its claim that £55 million of tax payments are assets was nonsensical. Nevertheless, Touche Ross, Trafalgar's auditor, gave the accounts an unqualified report. It should feel thoroughly embarrassed.

The changes and the recession should combine to make Trafalgar's accounts for the year just ended miserable reading. The group will suffer a writedown on its housebuilding land and a further heavy ACT charge, while any new chief executive is likely to decide to provide for everything he can find and blame it on his predecessor.

Private shareholders should be thankful they now have a protector like the FRP, which can eradicate the financial alchemy that characterised the eighties. There are plenty more trophies to be won.

Hot water

Ian Byatt's bald attempt to wipe 1 per cent off customers' expected water charges next year has run into some ingenious and, in some cases, successful resistance from the privatised companies. The varying deals done show an encouraging regulatory subtlety from which others could learn, while roughly achieving his objective. The crucial issue was whether Ofwat could use the companies' licences to force price cuts on the variable of construction costs, while resisting increases on the variable of costly extensions of quality standards.

Southern Water, which had one of the smallest initial investment programmes, and hence relatively little benefit from lower construction costs, used this argument to win an increase in scheduled prices by writing back its previous voluntary price concessions. South West is still arguing, while North West, which had the biggest construction bill and was, therefore, asked for the biggest price cut, has issued a formal challenge to the regulator. North West is not claiming that £430 million of extra costs should be passed to customers, but merely that the reductions on one side should be offset against much bigger spending rises it faces on the other. It would be surprising if this dispute ended up in the monopolies commission.

Most intriguing is the approach taken by Thames. It has agreed with Mr Byatt that clauses allowing annual price adjustments between periodic price reviews, other than big new environmental imposts, should be removed from its licence. In effect, it has swapped regulatory risk for the commercial risk of higher construction and energy prices and property rates. That increases the incentive for efficient management and looks sensible for both sides. Such details still pale before the main regulatory risk of next year's fundamental price review.

Joanna Pitman reports on how Tokyo's former colossus is trying to rebuild its reputation on the Japanese and world financial markets

We have been totally and deliberately humiliated. Held up as an example to all, Japan is rightly punishing us for our greed, a Nomura Securities official echoed the contrition of his top management. These days, the only noises issuing from Nomura's boardroom are of foreboding slumping down in bowed apology against knees.

Humility has become Nomura's new calling since the exposure last year of its involvement in the worst stock market scandals in memory, scandals that quickly became known as "Nomura's triple demerits". Japan's and the world's most powerful securities house was caught red handed, offering illicit compensation to institutional clients, laundering money for yakuza (Japanese gangsters) and encouraging "excessive trading" (Japan's euphemism for "ramping") of the shares of Tokyo Corporation.

In polite company, Nomura has been accused of an "unbecoming and excessive pursuit of profit". Elsewhere, it had sunk to harbouring a "sheer lust for filthy lucre". Japan's long, painful bear market, which has brought a 90 per cent fall in stock exchange turnover, combined with the debilitating effects of the scandals has given rise to a new modesty in the corridors of Nomura. How are the mighty fallen. Only a couple of years ago, Nomura Securities bestrode Tokyo's and the world's financial markets like a colossus. Corporate pride swelled to unprecedented proportions when Yoshihisa Tabuchi, the company's former president, appeared on the front of Time magazine. Nomura began to let it be known that it numbered a hundred dollar millionaires on its staff and youthful employees drove flashy foreign sports cars and swaggered into work in Armani suits. Such hubris, deemed wholly inappropriate in Japan's egalitarian society, was severely frowned upon by the establishment. Now Nomura has been well and truly knocked off its lofty perch.

With the air still being let out of Japan's "bubble economy" (the heady bull run of the late-1980s when stock and real estate prices were pushed up to four or five times their realistic values) and the stock market still down some 60 per cent since its peak in December 1989, the big securities houses are being made to suffer. But none is suffering more than Nomura. "We are losing money at the operating level," Hideo Sakamaki, Nomura's president, said in a recent



Bowing out: about 2,000 of Nomura's 5,000 "office ladies" are expected to go over the next five years

magazine interview. "What we face now is an emergency, so all of us are working hard to turn our operations profitable." The *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, Japan's equivalent of the *Financial Times*, recently reported that Nomura Securities is expected to have half-year pre-tax losses of ¥10 billion (£40.7 million). It will be a dramatic comedown from 1987, its peak year when it made pre-tax profits of ¥493.7 billion. In those days the market was registering a daily turnover of volume in the billions. But the dramatic tailspin of the Nikkei index has left turnover languishing around the 250-300 million mark.

We could step in and push the Nikkei right back up at any time. But we do not want to do that yet

Nomura is said to need a daily turnover on the market of 500 million trades just to break even. At its nadir several weeks ago, an estimated £1,800 billion had been wiped off the value of shares since the market's 1989 peak. The red faces in Nomura's boardroom reflect the state of its profits. Confronted with the unexpected spectacle of shame and self-abasement at the once mighty Nomura Securities, many outsiders have taken the attitude that poetic justice is being done. Some have witnessed its comings and goings with unbridled glee. An executive at one of Japan's big three insurance companies said: "We could step in and push the Nikkei right back up at any time, and others would follow. But we do not want to do that yet. Nomura

Securities deserved what was coming to it. We will wait until it has been forced to dig deep into the reserves it accumulated in the bubble years."

Nomura's reserves are undoubtedly being tapped, but they are of mythical proportions and are likely to keep the company afloat for some time. Nomura is reported to have squirreled away more than ¥1.5 trillion in cash, securities and other assets and had built up shareholders' equity worth ¥1.55 trillion during the bull market of the late 1980s. In the year to the end of March 1991, it made ¥142 billion net from interest and dividends on its cash and securities.

But despite its fat cushion of reserves, Nomura is still being mauled. With its core businesses of buying, selling and underwriting equity now shrunk to skeletal operations, Nomura has been in the red, in terms of book value, for several months.

The company suffered further humiliation in June when, selected by Guinness Peat Aviation as the first ever Japanese international underwriting co-ordinator for a global share issue, it was forced to cancel the deal due, according to Nomura, to a lack of demand in European and American markets.

"Nomura was chosen for its strong placement capability in the Japanese market, but Tokyo's institutional investors were not interested. Nomura would probably have gone ahead if this had happened before the scandals and the damage to its reputation. Now it just cannot flex its muscles and bully investors to take placements like it used to. The GPA flop was a grave loss of face," a

corporate finance specialist suggested.

Business is already thin on the ground and with a market and economic outlook that is still bleak, Nomura is being forced to take drastic action. In July, the company announced a "rationalisation" programme which will involve cutting one sixth of its domestic staff over the next five years, considered to be a last resort in the Japan of lifetime employment.

Threats will be made by attrition and will affect female staff. On the list to go are 2,000 of Nomura's 5,000 "office ladies", the secretaries and clerical staff who, insiders say, are viewed more as office decorations and providers of green tea than stock spotters.

Nomura has also embarked on a more dramatic and much more difficult programme that boils down to erasing the memory of the scandals, restoring its reputation, improving contact with customers and winning back the trust of the private investors who account for 50 per cent of brokerage income. In more bullish days, Nomura used to move through the market like a bulldozer, the headquarters instructing its 5,000 salesmen which shares to promote. The salesmen would fan out across Japan and push them on to their hapless clients. While they gasped at Nomura's involvement in the compensation of favoured clients and reeled at the revelations of Nomura's

Nomura is being forced to change its attitude in terms of business ethics and behaviour

cosy links with the underworld, private clients also watched their own investments shrivel to two fifths their size at the market's peak.

Executives want to rid the company of the reputation for arrogance which dogged it throughout the 1980s. "We are going through a re-focusing of our policies. Customers' needs come first now," Tomoko Aikawa, a Nomura spokeswoman, said. The risks of equity investments will be fully explained to customers and "health warnings" are being printed on promotional pamphlets. Shigeki Morimoto, a director of the finance ministry's international bureau, said: "Nomura is being forced to change its attitude in terms of business ethics and behaviour. I don't think it will make the same mistakes again."

Full-page advertisements taken out in Japan's national dailies this year proclaimed the creation of a "born-again Nomura", an implicit acknowledgement that the company's bull market practices of foisting high-risk instruments on to private investors, had backfired.

Image-wise, Nomura still has a long way to go in the hierarchically inclined Japan of today. Traditionally known as *kobu-ya* (literally stock vendors) and regarded as no more distinguished than fishmongers, Japan's stockbrokers have always been viewed as the cheaper, brasher, and younger brethren of the nation's highly respected bankers. In comparison to these noble, educated men who rescued the war-ravaged country and built it into the world's second most powerful economy, the typical *kobu-ya* is seen as being far from wholesome.

But as the bull market of the late-1980s went into overdrive, and then to its eventual demise, it became an open secret that Nomura and Yoshihisa Tabuchi, its since disgraced president, craved respectability in the cut-throat world of finance, especially in the light of the company's success at ousting Toyota Motors from its position as Japan's most profitable company.

Figures released in August of income ranking tables for fiscal 1991, show Nomura had fallen from sixth to 422nd place. The former president's dreams have been shattered. When the two (unrelated) Tabuchis —

"Small Tabuchi", the charismatic president Yoshihisa, and "Big Tabuchi", the revered chairman Setsuya — were forced to fall on their swords and resign over the scandals in July 1991, not only Nomura but all of Japan was shocked. "When Small Tabuchi resigned, it was like a colossus crashing," a Nomura official said. "When Big Tabuchi left it was as if God himself had disappeared."

Nomura is still in deep mourning, but as Yukio Aida, the new chairman, admits, it has only itself to blame: "Everyone was just intoxicated by profit." The cure prescribed for the company's hangover is drastic and is proving painful, but few disagree that of all Japan's former financial behemoths, Nomura alone has the resources to meet such a challenge.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Out of the coal house

IN A week when British Coal has closed 30 pits, the fate of its head office in London's Grosvenor Place, overlooking Buckingham Palace gardens, is mirroring the mining industry's retreat. Hobart House has been a symbol of the industry since 1947 when the National Coal Board occupied the building on a 99 year lease from the Grosvenor Estate. Since then, more than half of its 175,000 square feet have been sub-let, and British Coal yesterday admitted it is now conducting a phased withdrawal from London prior to privatisation. "We don't know what will happen at privatisation but in 18 months time it is unlikely there will be more than a small presence in London," says Tony Palmer, head of British Coal's property division. Palmer is now overseeing the conversion of additional space for sub-letting. ACAS already rents a quarter of the building "as commercial rates". Finding new tenants may prove harder. First rate commercial property in Victoria could fetch £20 a square foot. Hobart House would not, however, be in that bracket. It was once described as "a rabbit warren close to Victoria Station which carries the principles of austerity in the public service to ludicrous extremes". Not much has changed. Who will receive any rental income is also uncertain. It depends, according to Palmer, on what the government decides to do with British Coal's 250,000 acre "non-operational" land and property assets. Those



assets apparently include six stately homes, one of them being a listed mansion in Chalfont St Giles, Bucks, once used for training. It has been on the market for 15 months.

Gifts rapped

WITH only 59 shopping days to Christmas, Tiffany, the Old Bond Street jeweller, has launched its business gift catalogue. In the process, the upmarket retailer let slip that although turnover in its corporate division has defied the recession and increased more than 300 per cent during the past four years, Britain's more style-conscious bosses have only marginally increased the average amount of money they spend on each gift. In fact, although the distinctive pale blue Tiffany gift-boxes and white ribbons (£10 extra) make the gifts look expensive, the average spend on a business gift is £38. "People are definitely being more thoughtful about what they buy, they need to make every buck

work," Mark Platt, marketing manager, says. The most popular gifts for secretaries are silver-plated handbag mirrors, at £15, silver purse pens at £30 and silk scarves at £125. When it comes to clients, companies opt for champagne flutes at £10 or crystal paperweights at £40. Those in the property and motor sectors are, however, buying almost nothing this year — "Olympia & York used to be a big client of ours," laments Platt — while pharmaceutical companies have been spending more. The highest spending sector remains financial services.

All dressed up

A SUCCESSFUL Worcester-shire manufacturer who hoped to throw a champagne party this month for other businessmen who have similarly expanded despite the recession has been forced to modify his plans. Malcolm Olden, head of Ches Plastics, which makes plastic injection mouldings, wanted to "create a feeling of confidence and show there can be success even in the most difficult times". He put an advertisement in the trade press inviting would-be guests to contact him, but it has fallen on deaf ears, so far. Olden, 51, has received fewer than 20 replies, several of which were from companies keen to sell him goods. Putting a brave face on such a disappointing response, Olden says he will now combine the party with his company's 25th anniversary celebrations in three months. He hopes by then to have had more replies.

CAROL LEONARD

Norman Willis demands a rethink on coal

Fallacy of the dash for gas

The killing of the British coal industry is a victory for distortion over market forces. British miners were told that the only way to save jobs was by increasing productivity and cutting costs. Productivity rose, costs fell and yet now 30,000 jobs are to go, with an estimated 70,000 related jobs to follow.

What is the economic rationale for this act of industrial vandalism, which is likely to cost the taxpayer more than £1 billion? The government is insisting it has got its sums right and that there is no alternative. There is no market for coal and that's that. To keep the pits open would defy commercial logic and lead to higher energy prices.

But, where's the evidence? Why is there no market for the lowest-cost coal in Europe, and who stands to benefit from the ditching of more than 200 years of indigenous coal reserves?

Mr Heseltine claims there is no market for coal, and that the massive investments and productivity gains made by British Coal over the past five years were to no avail. The market must determine Britain's energy needs and the market sees gas as the fuel of the future. The dash for gas has thus become the justification for the death of coal, and to hell with unemployment and the nation's security of energy supply.

The unprecedented dash for gas has become a reality only in the past 18 months when licences have been given for the construction of more than 22 GW of new gas capacity — equal to more than one third of projected

generating capacity in England and Wales. With all these new gas plants and already too much capacity in the system (National Grid estimate 57 per cent overcapacity by 1997) who needs British coal? If the trend continues with the new gas plants providing the main part of UK energy needs (along with subsidised nuclear) little, if any, coal-fired capacity will be needed.

But, does an increased dependence on gas make economic sense? No-one disputes that in a few years our gas imports will rocket with knock-on consequences for the balance of trade. And few would argue that burning the nation's precious gas reserves for electricity generation while coal stocks are plentiful makes much sense.

The government argues that gas is replacing coal because it is the cheapest source of energy supply. Yet, all the evidence suggests the contrary. Even the power generators themselves admit that at current prices most of the new gas-fired plants cannot compete with the coal-fired generators they are scheduled to replace. (The costs of electricity from large coal stations burning British coal is about 2.2p/kWh compared with gas which ranges between 2.7p-2.9p/kWh). Industry will be forced to pay more, not less for its energy.

Despite all Mr Heseltine's assurances, a rise in oil prices to which the UK gas contracts are linked would have dire consequences for the industry's competitiveness. The electricity companies are firmly locked into "take or



"Hanging the industry without a trial": Norman Willis

pay" contracts which means they will have to offload gas however expensive. As coal prices continue to fall, gas prices go up, with the consumer paying the difference.

The fact that higher cost gas is replacing cheaper cost coal makes a mockery of the electricity regulations, which state that electricity companies should purchase their energy at the "best effective price". The regulations were drafted to protect the consumer. But, it will be the domestic and small business users, who are captive customers of the electricity com-

panies, who will pay the extra cost of gas over coal.

If gas is more expensive and we already have plentiful supplies of competitively priced coal, why are the gas stations being built and the pits closed? The explanation lies in the absence of any energy policy objectives and the bizarre way the electricity industry was privatised.

It may not be in the national interest to opt for gas over coal, but it clearly is in the short term interests of the electricity companies. Most of these companies have equity stakes in the very gas stations

they have made contracts with and are able to protect their investment by opting to take all the stations' output in preference to cheaper coal. There's no competition and the electricity companies have the licence to pass on any rises in costs to consumers. The vast programme of gas investment has been made possible by a financial mechanism which short circuits the electricity market system. Despite the fact that gas stations may bid into the electricity pool at low prices to make sure they are called on to generate, by the terms of their contracts, they will still be able to reclaim the full difference between the pool prices and the high contract price from the electricity companies.

What we are witness to is collusion and distortion in the privatised electricity market against coal. It is because of the malfunctions of the market and because the government refuses to intervene that coal has no future.

The government has torn the heart out of the coal industry in order to allow for the expansion of gas and bigger profits for the electricity companies. Bigger profits which will of course underpin the flotation of the power generators next year.

The TUC believes there must be an immediate moratorium on all pit closures until we have the facts on the table. The government cannot be allowed to place political prejudice before the nation's interest and hang the coal industry without a trial.

The author is general secretary of the TUC

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Widespread losses

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 5. Dealings end today. Settlement day October 19. Settlement day October 26. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall daily total and check this against the daily total and check this against the daily total. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. If you lose, your card will be returned to you. Your card will be returned to you.

No	Company	Group	Share	Price	Yield	P/E
1	Westfield	Building	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
2	Abbey	Building	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
3	Wellton	Building	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
4	Yorkshire W	Water	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
5	Thames Valley	Transport	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
6	Thames Valley	Transport	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
7	Thames Valley	Transport	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
8	Thames Valley	Transport	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
9	Thames Valley	Transport	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
10	Thames Valley	Transport	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
11	Thames Valley	Transport	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
12	Thames Valley	Transport	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
13	Thames Valley	Transport	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
14	Thames Valley	Transport	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
15	Thames Valley	Transport	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
16	Thames Valley	Transport	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
17	Thames Valley	Transport	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
18	Thames Valley	Transport	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
19	Thames Valley	Transport	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
20	Thames Valley	Transport	100	1.15	1.15	11.5

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Please take into account any minus signs

£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES

If you have ticked off your eight share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 53272 between 10.00am and 5.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Plus prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

1992 High Low Company Price % Chg % Yld P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No	Company	Share	Price	Yield	P/E
21	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
22	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
23	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
24	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
25	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
26	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
27	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
28	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
29	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
30	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
31	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
32	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
33	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
34	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
35	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
36	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
37	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
38	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
39	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
40	Barclays	100	1.15	1.15	11.5

BREWERIES

No	Company	Share	Price	Yield	P/E
41	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
42	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
43	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
44	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
45	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
46	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
47	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
48	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
49	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
50	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
51	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
52	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
53	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
54	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
55	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
56	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
57	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
58	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
59	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
60	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5

BUILDING, ROADS

No	Company	Share	Price	Yield	P/E
61	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
62	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
63	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
64	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
65	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
66	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
67	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
68	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
69	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
70	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
71	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
72	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
73	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
74	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
75	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
76	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
77	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
78	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
79	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
80	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5

BUSINESS SERVICES

No	Company	Share	Price	Yield	P/E
81	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
82	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
83	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
84	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
85	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
86	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
87	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
88	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
89	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
90	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
91	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
92	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
93	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
94	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
95	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
96	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
97	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
98	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
99	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
100	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5

ELECTRICITY

No	Company	Share	Price	Yield	P/E
101	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
102	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
103	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
104	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
105	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
106	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
107	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
108	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
109	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
110	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
111	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
112	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
113	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
114	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
115	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
116	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
117	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
118	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
119	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
120	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5

FINANCE, LAND

No	Company	Share	Price	Yield	P/E
121	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
122	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
123	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
124	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
125	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
126	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
127	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
128	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
129	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
130	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
131	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
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134	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
135	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
136	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
137	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
138	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
139	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
140	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

No	Company	Share	Price	Yield	P/E
141	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
142	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
143	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
144	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
145	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
146	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
147	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
148	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
149	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
150	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
151	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
152	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
153	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
154	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
155	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
156	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
157	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
158	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
159	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
160	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5

DRAPERY, STORES

No	Company	Share	Price	Yield	P/E
161	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
162	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
163	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
164	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
165	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
166	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
167	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
168	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
169	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
170	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
171	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
172	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
173	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
174	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
175	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
176	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
177	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
178	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
179	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
180	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5

ELECTRICALS

180	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
181	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
182	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
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185	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
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246	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
247	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
248	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
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253	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
254	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
255	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
256	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
257	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
258	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
259	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
260	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
261	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
262	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
263	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
264	Adnams	100	1.15	1.15	11.5
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INFOTECH

New telephone operators plan to set up radio links. Ken Young tunes in

Rivals to BT are coming on line

The battle for the household telephone is heating up with the arrival of two new operators promising they will soon introduce services undercutting BT charges. The problem with providing alternative telephone networks to the domestic market is the cost of running wires to every individual house.

The new operators, the American-owned Millicom UK and Ionica, of Cambridge, will, however, use radio links for the connection between customer and network. Subscribers will have to install a miniature television-style aerial on a high wall or roof. Linked to the house telephone, the aerial will transmit to a nearby "base station", and thence to an exchange.

Ionica says its system will use a 6in aerial and should be available to half of Britain's telephone users within two years. The first customers will be in Yorkshire and Hull, where Ionica will start a service with Yorkshire Electric and Kingston Communications, its shareholders.

Nigel Playford, the managing director, says: "We intend to gain at least 5 per cent of the UK residential market within ten years of operation."

The companies say the attraction of these new "radio-tail" telephone networks will be not only cheaper services, but also additional features, including a greater choice of telephone numbers available and easier-to-use data services for computer users.

Millicom says it is also considering offering videophone services, because it will use high-bandwidth radio links, which can more easily be converted to transmit good-quality pictures than can standard telephone lines.

Matthew Hare, Millicom's managing director, says the network will cost between £200 million and £300 million to build, and will be particularly

attractive to what he believes will be a growing number of teleworkers — people working at home using computers linked to other computers via telephone lines.

Millicom will use a system developed in the United States by PCN America, its sister company, where it is to be used for mobile communications services.

In the UK, every base station will be able to handle 800 calls simultaneously. Subscribers will have to install a 12in aerial connected to a small box unit inside the premises.

A third company, Atlantic Telecommunications, expects to be granted a licence to bring even more competition to local services. It hopes to use telepoint technology, a variation of cellular technology, to bring telephones to the home by radio link.

Atlantic believes that telepoint, despite failing to capture a national market when it was introduced by three operators two years ago, will prove popular in the home because an increasing number of people, at present about 1.2 million, now use cordless telephones on BT or Mercury lines. Atlantic says its service will have more appeal than the radio-tail system, because users will be able to use their telephones as mobiles for outgoing calls in the region where they live, as well as at home.

Of the telepoint operators originally licensed four years ago, the only one remaining is Hutchison Telecom's Rabbit, which has 5,000 subscribers in the Gratiada TV region, where the service has been available for nearly a year.

Geoff Vincent, a senior consultant with the PA Consulting Group, says these new services represent an emerging new order in the telephone market. "They are not guaranteed success, but factors right — technology, services,



Under pressure: BT will face more competition for the household telephone

if they get all the marketing, interconnection and so on — they stand to do extremely well in niche markets. A mixture of fixed and mobile services is definitely the way the market is going."

Despite being first to gain permission to install and operate such services, Ionica and Millicom already face competition in areas served by cable television operators. Because there is plenty of spare capacity on the fibre-optic cables that carry the television channels, more and more subscribers are being offered cheap telephone calls as an extra service.

So far, telephony is available in nine of the 29 cable franchises. And with cable operators seeking to get the best deal from handling call traffic to either BT or Mercury, there are signs that customers are beginning to benefit.

One operator, Diamond Cable, of Nottingham, has connections with the BT and Mercury networks, and sends customers' calls through whichever is cheaper, depending on the call. This

means using Mercury for long-distance calls and BT for local traffic. Diamond has just over 600 subscribers.

Telephony is not just a fringe benefit for cable operators. Last year, the first such service, started by Windsor Cable in 1988, generated more revenue than its cable television service.

Cable operators providing telephone services offer a range of extras, including itemised billing, high data rates for computer links and a fast fault repair service, usually within four hours. Cable telephone subscribers often pay 10 to 20 per cent less for calls than they would for BT calls.

The most significant saving, however, is installation. For example, Cable London, which serves the London boroughs of Camden, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Enfield, charges £30 for installation compared with BT's charge of £152.

Customers also make considerable savings on short calls, since Cable London charges by the second, with a minimum charge of 3p a call.

PCs to proceed in a homely direction

Some manufacturers want to make the personal computer a more widely usable domestic tool

As the personal computer celebrates its tenth birthday, some manufacturers are starting to shift their emphasis from the office to the home. For years, "futurologists" have predicted how the PC could change the average person's home life, but only recently has the technology been invented to meet that challenge.

PC software — and its recent "ease of use" ideas — are being looked at for use in everything from automated bank teller machines to hand-held "personal data assistants", televisions, videotape recorders and microwave ovens.

One boost may come from the success of software that is popularising the use of pictures to control equipment. Many modern video recorders already have a built-in "screen" for programming which television programmes to record or can display and enter this information on the television screen itself.

Pictures such as that of a runner at the starting blocks of a race, indicating that you should enter the start time of a programme, and the same runner reaching the finish line, where you are supposed to enter the time when the programme ends, may be only the start of an "icon-based" approach to controlling consumer devices that is evolving from the PC world.

One of the most visible companies on this subject is Microsoft. The success of Windows, its picture-based operating software for PCs, has led Bill Gates, the chairman and co-founder, to look at whether a similar technology could work in electronic products in office and home.

To start with, the fax, photocopier and telephone may all have small screens with little

icons on them and telephone switchboards may share phone directories with electronic mail and voice-mail systems.

Mr Gates also wants to design a hand-held Windows machine, not unlike Apple Computer's recently announced Newton hand-held computer, which should go on sale next year. This system allows users to control it through handwriting on the screen, but this is a limitation, Mr Gates says. "Newton is handwriting-intensive, so it relies on the weakest part of

recent agreement with Toshiba, the Japanese electronics group, for "personal digital assistants".

For existing appliances, there is already resistance to having more remote controls. Some people already have three or four to control the television set, the video recorder, the stereo and perhaps satellite television channels.

One possible alternative within five years is that people will have a few wall-mounted, colour flat screens at home that will be used for television, video games and information management. The controls for all systems, including functions such as central heating, will be condensed into a single hand-held controller with picture-based software screens.

Manufacturers say that one of the advantages is that, like road signs, pictures used for control are far more international, so common symbols could be developed for controlling computers, video recorders, fridges, radios and any other device that takes software.

There are many technological issues to be settled before then. These include international decisions about the resolution of high-definition television, the cost and reliability of large colour screens and the regulatory issues surrounding their use.

Meanwhile, if the wish of some PC manufacturers comes true, you can expect their ideas to appear in almost anything that has electricity running through it. Pointing at pictures will then become the internationally standard way of controlling devices.

GEOFF WHEELWRIGHT



the system to do the most work," he explains.

However, many projects that mix personal computer technology with office or consumer electronics technology require partnerships between computer companies and other industries.

The many examples of this range from Olivetti, the Italian computer maker, which entered the lucrative automated teller machine (ATM) banking market in the mid 1980s, to Apple Computer's

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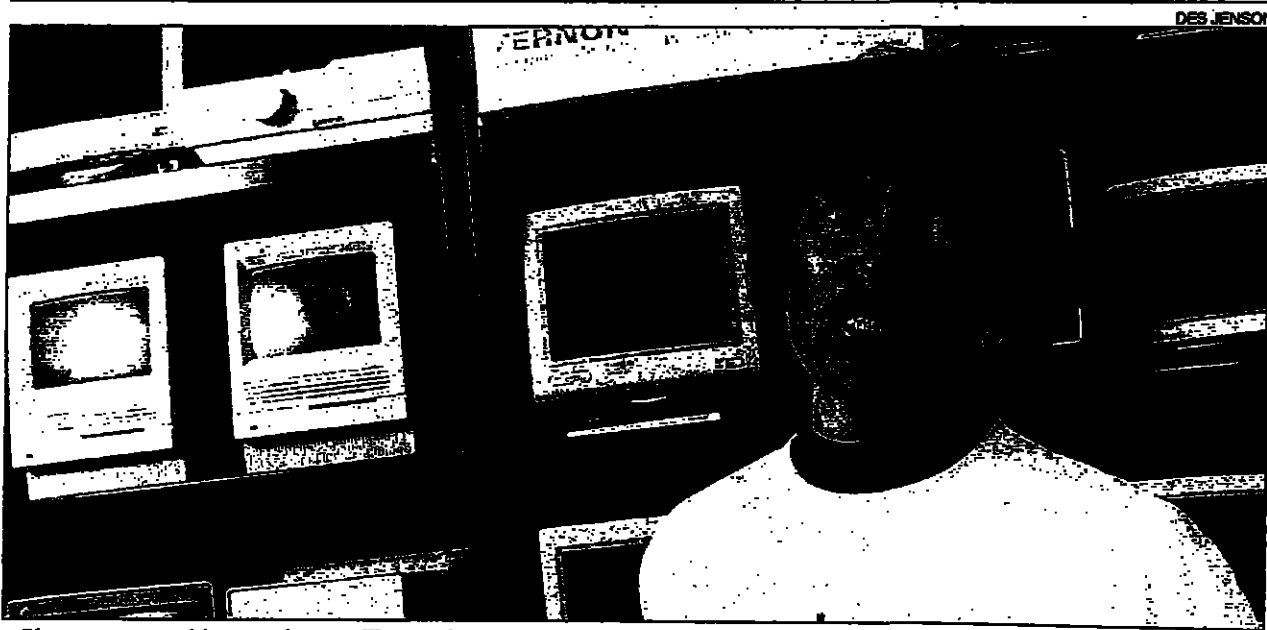
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Short-term weekly rental can still occasionally be advantageous, says Julie Gibson, of Vernon Computer Rentals

Rent or buy, a business dilemma

People working on short-term projects or others wanting to try before they buy may prefer to rent a personal computer, although the purchase price has fallen significantly.

Rented PCs, however, can be expensive and, because of fears of piracy, software cannot be hired to go with them. Hire companies, of which there are at least 20 in London alone, are therefore geared towards large and medium size companies.

"Our experience is that, although we do not think it is a very expensive option, the individual customer will see it like that," says Harry Scott, the general manager of Data Preference, a hire company.

A typical monthly rental can cost 5 per cent of the price of a PC. The calculation is based on a comparison of the full list price and a minimum contract of a year. Mr Scott says: "To big organisations paying 60 to 70 per cent of the purchase cost for a year's rental, it is nothing if they want to stay at the forefront of technology. But the individual customer will realise that for the price, he could almost have bought the system."

For shorter periods, the cost of rental is higher, typically about 10 per cent of the purchase price every month. Hamilton Rentals, one of the biggest in the business, is also geared towards large companies that will pay premium

A careful comparison of costs is required by firms needing extra equipment for special projects

prices for the latest equipment, but it is now considering cheaper options, which will provide a budget PC from £75 a month with a minimum one-month hire period.

"The rental price will include an eight-hour maintenance service," says David Franklin, Hamilton's sales and marketing director. The new scheme, starting this month, will not involve the latest systems but will concentrate on older PCs.

Julie Gibson, managing director of Vernon Computer Rentals, says that short-term weekly rental can still occasionally be advantageous if, for example, a small company or an individual has to complete a special project requiring specific hardware.

A typical situation could be that of a designer asked to undertake a project for a client and deliver it in Apple Mac format. If the designer has only IBM-compatible machines, the extra cost of buying an Apple Mac may not be warranted. Excluding VAT, a month's hire of an Apple Mac Classic can cost £168, a Compaq 386SX desktop £335 and a Compaq 386SX laptop portable £459. Although rental rates usu-

ally diminish if the machine is hired for a longer period, the cost is still high when compared with outright purchase. A Compaq 386SX LTE laptop costs £2,400. A three-month rental would cost £1,100, nearly half the machine's cost.

Some companies, including Hamilton, offer the rental customer the chance to buy the machine outright without having to continue to pay the rental until the end of the agreement period. Others, such as Vernon, do not sell machines at all because many of their customers are referred to them by dealers, which they do not want to antagonise.

Ms Gibson advises customers to investigate the terms of the rental agreement seriously before signing. Some contain clauses that lock the customer into paying the same weekly or monthly rent if they go beyond the specified time limit. Others offer cheaper rents the longer the machine is retained.

One of the other disadvantages is that although hardware and the operating system can be rented, software applications, the programs that perform the day-to-day tasks on the machine, cannot be rented for copyright reasons. At present, programs such as the Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet, Borland's dBase or Microsoft Excel cannot be hired. This is one of the biggest obstacles to short-term rental because most PC and Apple Mac programs cost between £200 and £500. Rental companies have been pressing software suppliers to change their rules.

Mr Scott comments: "Renting software is something that is long overdue, but at present no such arrangement exists."

SEAN HALLAHAN

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OPERA page 31
Alan Opie gives
Papageno a Cornish
slant in English National
Opera's Magic Flute

ARTS

ROCK page 31
Keith Richards, thirty
years a Rolling Stone
and looking forward to
a music-making old age



GALLERIES: a more dazzling age revealed in portraits; and a profile of the Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures

Portraits of panache

In 1633, a few years after Sir Kenneth Digby married his beautiful wife Venetia, he commissioned Van Dyck to paint her as *Prudence*. Venetia had been accused of promiscuity and a liaison with the 3rd Earl of Dorset. So Van Dyck portrayed her stroking two doves of chastity, while resting her dainty yet triumphant foot on the defeated figure of Cupid. The purified wife looks blanching and impeccable as she awaits a laurel wreath, held above her head by three hovering cherubs. But there is open pride in Venetia's pose, and her flamboyant draperies billow with unrestrained magnificence.

Hanging among the first exhibits in the Tate's survey of the *Swagger* Portraits, this sumptuous allegory typifies the mood of unbridled ostentation which Van Dyck introduced to British art. Before he settled in London, plenty of grand full-length effigies had been painted for Tudor and Jacobean patrons. But none possessed the exuberant, glamorous theatricality imported by the prolific and ceaselessly inventive Van Dyck. He dominates the opening room, allowing women to perform a series of show-stopping roles.

Van Dyck was a master of the knowing female glance. The Countess of Carlisle looks conspiratorial as she gestures by a curtain towards a dark and secret interior beyond. And the Countess of Southampton, posing as *Fortune* enthroned in clouds, gives off a seductive allure even as she clasps the sceptre of regal authority and tramples mankind underfoot in the form of a skull.

No wonder that the "swagger" tradition was swiftly revived when Charles II ushered in the Restoration. Although Van Dyck was no longer alive, Lely tried hard to charge his sitters with the maximum amount of charisma. Nobody could be more haughty than Horatio, 1st Viscount Townshend, preening himself after receiving from Charles the baronet's crown displayed nearby on a crimson cushion. And nobody could be more smug than Viscount Cornbury, pointing with undignified pride towards his sensual but frail-looking wife Theodosia. She died soon afterwards of a

A sumptuous exhibition at the Tate traces a strain of unbridled ostentation through three centuries of English portraiture.

Richard Cork admires the flamboyance

violent smallpox attack, but Restoration women were usually more enduring. None more so than the notorious Barbara Villiers, Charles's most favoured mistress, who stares out from Lely's half-length beneath world-weary, half-lowered eyelids. As a sly joke, she is presented as the virginal St Catherine of Alexandria. But neither Villiers nor Lely expects anyone to be fooled. She appears, above all, a woman well-acquainted with the king's bedchamber, and the pity is that the lascivious Charles is represented by a Kneller portrait. Of all

'Swagger had to contend with a deep-seated British mistrust of ostentation'

Other artists of the period err in the other direction by trying too hard — sometimes hilariously. The aptly named Jacob de Wet was determined to present the 1st Marquis of Atholl as a mighty imperial conqueror. But the outcome is absurd. Nonsensically kitted out in full modern wig and Roman armour, the pompous Atholl gestures towards a classical battle which bears no relation to his own military exploits at Bothwell Brig. Most preposterous of all, he seems sublimely unaware of the swollen drapery rising up so suggestively from his loins.

As Andrew Wilton points out in his immensely engaging catalogue, the continuing appetite for "swagger" had to contend with a deep-seated British mistrust of ostentation. Protestantism clashed with showiness during the 18th century, and portrait painters as stolid as Thomas Hudson were incapable of providing the requisite panache.

There was an urgent need for elegance, and Allan Ramsay provided it. His deft, almost balletic portrait of Norman, the 22nd Chief of MacLeod, sets the Highlander into poised motion by a seashore. Ramsay, far more than the clumsy de Wet, knew how to invest the chieftain with a persuasive antique grandeur. But it was left once again to a foreign artist to continue the "swagger" tradition with wholehearted élan.

Like the Antwerp-born Van Dyck, the Rome-based Pompeo Batoni now gave British portraiture the splendour it so often shied away from. His full-length of the young and wealthy Thomas Coke, later 1st Earl of Leicester, revels in the man's legendary handsomeness. Wearing a salmon-pink bow-tie on his resplendent lace collar, the white-suited Coke brandishes his eligibility with the aid of an ermine-lined cloak. While a dog sniffs at the feather embellishing his hat, he rests one hand on a plinth bearing a classical carving of Ariadne on Naxos. Since the sculpture resembles the Countess of Albany, who is supposed to have commissioned the portrait as a present for Coke, she may have asked Batoni to position the carving so that Ariadne stares appreciatively at the young landowner.

Reynolds would never have gone along with such a lustful request. Even at his most playful, in a wind-blown portrait of Mrs. Musters as *Hebe*, he stops well short of suggesting erotic attraction. Nor did he succeed, with his grandiose attempt to lend antique nobility to the *Three Ladies Adorning a Term of Hymen*, in escaping the ridiculous. This overblown celebration of

marriage is bathetic, and Reynolds became far more convincing when he trained his high seriousness on a menacing full-length of the corpulent, bull-necked "Butcher" Cumberland.

Gainsborough was incapable of conveying brutal male gravitas. Always more in love with informality than grandeur, he looks uneasy as he portrays the youthful George, Prince of Wales beside an awkwardly drawn horse. But when he was captivated by someone as entertaining as the dancer Giovanna Baccelli, the outcome was vivaciously personified. Her costume is genuine, not assumed *à la* Reynolds. And she handles it with disarming spontaneity, snatching up her draperies in a spirited gesture that matches Gainsborough's zealous, improvisatory brushstrokes.

The last thorough-going practitioner of "swagger" is Lawrence, whose precious portrait of Lady Manners provides the show with a virtuoso climax. Restricting himself to a near-Whistlerian range of whites and greys, Lawrence shows his subject standing prettily by some garden steps. But he counters this restraint by suddenly introducing the tumbling chromatic richness of a peacock's tail. Lawrence is far less impressive when he shows Kemble posing in portentous darkness as a skull-haunted Hamlet, but he compares very well with the bourgeois stodginess of the Victorians. Only Tissot's incisive little study of the cigarette-smoking Colonel Burnaby, lounging arrogantly among his armour and dustsheets, saves the Victorian room from tedium.

The surprise is that Sargent was momentarily able, towards the end of the Queen's reign, to resuscitate "swagger" with such aplomb. But there is a lack of substance about his gossamer portrait of Ena and Betty Wertheimer which heralds the end. While they smile, flaunt and fan-flutter in the slipstream of Sargent's brushstrokes, these butterfly creatures seem about to fade into the gloom — along with a pictorial tradition which enjoyed here its last, fulfil flourish.

● The *Swagger* Portraits is at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071 821 1313) until Jan 10



Spontaneous subject painted with zest: Gainsborough's portrait of the dancer Giovanna Baccelli

They got plenty of miming...

TREVOR NUNN's production of *Porgy and Bess*, currently packing them in at Covent Garden, was supposed to have been filmed for video when it was first seen at Glyndebourne six years ago. Plans foundered on contractual complications, and the labyrinthine requirements of the Gershwin Estate.

The good news is that it will now be filmed in its Covent Garden manifestation. The bad news? It will not, as first planned, be the Covent Garden staging as conducted by Andrew Litton. The cast will be taken to a film studio for three weeks, where Nunn will direct them while they mime to Simon Rattle's EMI recording. The production's theatrical punch will inevitably be diluted, but it will be better than nothing.

Or will it? Perhaps Nunn should forget about the film altogether, and transfer his production straight into a commercial West End theatre, where it would surely run for months. After all, he did it with *Les Misérables* — and *Porgy* has much better tunes.

● THE Bush Theatre has won the 1992 Empty Space/Peter Brook Award, which is given every year to mark innovation on the part of companies who perform in small theatre spaces and receive little in the way of public funding. The Bush, now in its 20th year, was chosen "in recognition of continuous achievement in presenting the work of new writers, in particular

ARTS BRIEFING



Herbert Howells: defining the sound of cathedral choirs

for the works of Billy Roche, Chris Hannan and Roy MacGregor performed this year.

Anniversary voices

WALK into almost any English cathedral tomorrow afternoon and you will hear the music of one composer: Herbert Howells, who was born a hundred years ago tomorrow and who, more than any other 20th-century musician, de-

fined the classic sound of the English cathedral choir singing evensong.

There will also be two London concerts of his music at the Queen Elizabeth Hall tomorrow, and Westminster Abbey on November 17, when his choral masterpiece, *Hymnus Paradisi*, will be sung.

● THE man who founded the Royal Ballet Choreographic Group is being honoured in a tribute at the Riverside Studios on Sunday. Leslie Edwards started the group 25 years ago to nurture choreographic talent within the two Royal Ballet companies, and directed it for two decades. Among those who benefited were David Bintley, Matthew Hart, Ashley Page and Simon Rice, all of whom will present work on Sunday.

Last chance...

FOR his first production at the National Theatre, Stephen Daldry made what seemed like a bizarre choice. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*, a thriller that nobody has done anything original with for years. Daldry transformed our perceptions of it, whirling his cast (led by Barbara Leigh-Hunt and Richard Pasco) across a bomb-shattered landscape while future generations stood watching anxiously from the wings. The play's run at the Lyttelton (071-928 2252) ends on Tuesday, after which it tours to Newcastle, Cardiff and five other cities.

Splendour falls on castle walls

The man who looks after the Queen's 7,000 pictures is about to take television viewers on an unprecedented tour of the premises

ise of royal participation, but the Queen wanted to see every script. "They would come back with notes pencilled in the margin which were a measure of the personal interest she was taking," says Harry Marshall of Icon Films, which made the series. "She has a sharp eye for a split infinitive. She probably knows the collection better than anyone else and has an astonishing memory. I got the impression that Alan Bennett's image of her in *A Question of Attribution* was pretty accurate."

After she had seen some scripts, the Queen agreed that one of her routine visits to the restoration studio in St James's Palace should be filmed; it is shown in the opening programme to which the Prince of Wales also provides the introduction. This programme concentrates on the three greatest royal collectors, Charles I, George IV, and Victoria, who provided the greatest treasures of a collection that is three times as large as the National Gallery's. Other royal collections were



Christopher Lloyd: took to television "like moth to flame"

nationalised as the nucleus of such museums as the Louvre, the Prado or the Hermitage. The British one survives as a background to family life.

How do you look after 7,000 pictures, with only a tiny staff? Lloyd describes his task as "challenging and daunting". The first surveyor appointed by Charles I, Abraham van der Doort, commit-

ted suicide supposedly because he had mislaid a miniature — not difficult, since there are 3,000 of these. Lloyd admits that only now, after four years in the job, does he believe he has seen all of the pictures in his care. "It involves a lot of walking. Something between a half and three quarters of the pictures are hung and I like to change pictures around. Naturally, I inform the Queen every time a picture is to be moved. Having lived with them, she would certainly notice any changes."

Besides having huge strengths, the collection has gaps. Nothing by Constable, for instance. Turner's one royal commission from George IV, *The Battle of Trafalgar*, was packed off to Greenwich because the future William IV and his naval cronies kept finding fault with its accuracy. There are no other Turners principally because Queen Victoria did not care for his visions. "Turner was mad — my grandmother always said so," George V informed Sir Kenneth Clark. She did not care for pre-Raphaelites either. "The collection is a personal choice. There is no obligation for it to be comprehensive," Lloyd says.

Lloyd admits that he enjoyed his task on screen. "I was drawn to it like a moth to flame." He thinks it will make an interesting addition to the original job description of the surveyor: "To keep the paintings (so much as in him lyeth) from being spoiled; to order make and number them; to take order for making and copying of pictures as Wee shall direct..." And, nowadays, to do a lively voice-over as well.

A very English affair

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15

ROCK: David Sinclair meets Keith Richards, Rolling Stone and archetypal rock 'n' roll survivor

He's growing old gratefully

After 30 years of rhythm and booze, are the Rolling Stones running out of steam? Keith Richards gives his first response to an unauthorised biography and contemplates the joys of a musical old age

The Rolling Stones go on for ever. But time flies and Keith Richards, assisted by his tightly-knit backing group the X-Pensive Winos, is now into the fifth year of his parallel career as a solo artist, longer than many of his peers from the Sixties lasted the first time round. His third album, *Main Offender*, is released on Monday.

Just two months shy of his 49th birthday, Richards betrays no signs of flagging enthusiasm for a trade which was forged from the passions of a conspicuously mispent youth.

"Rock has always been regarded as a juvenile pursuit, and it damn well better stay that way," he says, pulling on a full-strength Marlboro, the first of eight consumed in the course of a two-hour meeting. "On the other hand, it hasn't been around long enough to go the whole distance, and that's what I'm here for. Getting old is a fascinating thing. The older you get, the older you want to get. At 30 I couldn't have cared less, but I've seen the lines where I might have wanted to disappear and I've crossed over them. I've jumped the hurdles to reach a point where you understand things more clearly. Getting old? With a bit of luck it'll happen to all of us."

'My whole hand swelled up like a balloon: another millimetre and the doctor was going to cut it off, à la Django Reinhardt'

The ice cubes clink in his glass as Richards tilts his head back and abandons himself to a rasping, piratical laugh. His deeply-scored face is topped by a disorganised thatch of hair which has grown improbably darker in recent years. It is gathered within a white headband decorated with a Japanese rising sun logo.

He has the grained, calloused hands more typical of a farmworker than a musician; and the second finger of his left hand is still unnaturally swollen from the injury which caused the postponement of a show at Wembley Stadium during last year's "Urban Jungle" tour.

"I stabbed it on stage with the cut-off end of a guitar string. It got poisoned and my whole hand swelled up like a balloon. It was frightening, because another millimetre and the doctor was going to cut it off. It would have been Django Reinhardt revisited."

The ability to shrug off casually the vicissitudes of a notoriously testing lifestyle has long been part and parcel of the Keith Richards mythology. He was, for most of the Seventies, the world's most celebrated junkie. He has been stood up against more walls than he can remember to be searched by police.

Several of his homes have burnt down; many of his friends have died; there have been shootings at his house, car crashes and, in 1969, the horror of Altamont when he stood on stage powerless to prevent Hells

Angels from beating and stabbing a member of the audience to death. He still carries a knife, a wicked looking, bone-handled Jamaican ratchet, which he has had so long he now believes it is charmed. "It's got me out of one or two tight spots, but it's generally been more use for sharpening pencils and taking stones out of horses' hooves."

It is hardly surprising, then, that Richards has become known as something of a tough guy. Barbara Charone's pioneering biography of him, published in 1979, painted a picture of a talented, wayward and incredibly resilient man, fond of shooting water rats and able to cope without sleep for anything up to six consecutive nights.

Times change and more recently the writer Albert Goldman described Richards as "someone who gave himself up so completely to the rock life... that he eventually developed a

strange purity amidst filth. He does have soul, he does look like what he is, and there's a very beautiful, delicate, tender and lyrical style that he has."

A new, unauthorised biography by Victor Bockris underlines the gentler perspective, suggesting that underneath the hoodlump image, Richards is a big softie at heart. Surely,

if true, such a revelation could be highly damaging to his reputation? "We should put Victor in the room with me right now and we'll find out whose soft," Richards says with a wry chuckle, only half in jest.

"I've never gone out to project myself as a hard man. That's just the stuff that's spun out, and I guess occasionally I can be. But unless I'm pushed I'm the nicest guy in the world... So was the Godfather, right?"

"I'm fully aware of this image that I'm dragging around and I understand why some people have formed certain opinions of me. But you can only be hard if you're allowed to be a softie behind it. I can deal with anything, but I want to remain a nice guy. You don't keep bands together, a wife and kids and everything that I've done, without being able to form relationships. On the odd occasions when I haven't been able to get along with someone I've taken a quick route to deal with it. And usually it'll be at the wrong moment in the wrong place and I'll instantly regret it."

As if to underline this duality, Richards's new release, *Main Offender*, is a scraggy, bleary thug of an album which also manages to convey great tenderness and warmth. Among the highlights are two ballads, "Yap Yap" and "Dement", which both combine the most delicate of chord sequences with a sharp cutting edge to the lyrics. "Hate It When You Leave" is a loving Sixties



Keith Richards: his solo projects mean he is ready to resume work as a Rolling Stone at short notice

soul pastiche "located half-way between Motown and Memphis", and "Words of Wonder" continues the fascination with reggae which Richards has nurtured since he first lived in Jamaica in the early Seventies.

But the most striking aspect of the album is the unusual way in which Richards manipulates his wry, trademarked riffs and around the beat, while shoe-horning his vocals into gaps that would not be immediately obvious. "It's difficult to find new avenues," he admits. "Rock 'n' roll is a very limited form, but there is room for manoeuvre if you hunt around for it. I've been trying to change the idea of song arrangements, to move away from verse/chorus structures and exploit the wide open spaces."

Was he surprised by reactions to his "unconventional" singing?

"I figured there would be a fair bit of knocking. But some of the worst voices in the world are the most expressive. You want great singers? Give me Louis Armstrong or Bob Dylan. It's a matter of expression not technique. Everyone's got a voice. It's what you do with it."

Nearly all the individual members of the Rolling Stones are currently engaged in solo projects, yet curiously enough the current hiatus has prompted fewer predictions of the group's imminent demise than at any comparable period since the early Seventies. The band has, of course, just signed a new multi-million pound recording contract with Virgin, but Richards feels that the solo projects actually contribute to the well-being of the group by helping to keep the cogs of the machine in good working order.

"The Stones is an enormous opera-

tion which can't run non-stop. But a musician needs practice, continuity. Take a few days off, sure, but not two years. The solo projects mean that the Stones can get back together and work pretty much from Day One."

Ironically, the only Stone who is not engaged in any sort of musical project is Bill Wyman. "I'm going to go over in a couple of weeks and sit down with him. I've heard he's leaving, but he's got to tell me that face to face. Otherwise when the bugle goes off for reveille, I expect him to be there. He always brings something new to the sessions and I would hate to change the line-up of the band at this stage. Only Bill Wyman can force me to do that, but I'm going to go over there and put the Chinese burn on him."

● *Main Offender* by Keith Richards (Virgin America 86499 2) is released on Monday

FRINGE THEATRE

The best of three? That came in last

THE catering firm in charge of refreshments at the marriage at Cana was admonished for serving the poor wine first, and I felt similar resentment, musing after seeing the three, thematically linked scenes of this play by David Ian Neville. The production, his own, won him a Fringe First at this year's Edinburgh Festival.

The play's three monologues touch at different points the consequences of a terrorist explosion in Northern Ireland. In "Letters home" a soldier's wife remembers her wrecked marriage. For "Remembrance Day", the scene-shifters lug off her boxes of mementoes and bring on an ironing-board and an empty wheelchair: in this scene the soldier's father asks, "Why? Why? Why?" and rages against his own unhappy lot. "You come back to Glasgow with the dust of Dusseldorf still in your uniform, you work at Yardleys till they dump you on the scrap heap. What's it all for, eh?"

In the course of this scene the writing is just occasionally astute, when the man recalls how officers respectfully called him "Sir" on his journey to Belfast to see his terribly injured son. But Finlay McLean looks scarcely old enough to have fathered a soldier boy, and the effort to imagine him fighting his way through Westphalia in 1945 is too much. The author does not identify the year of this particular explosion, but the man will have clocked up 40 or more years' employment, so that his moans about premature retirement cut no ice.

Perhaps the author's intention is to present him as blinkered and selfish. Certainly he is keeping his son to himself and thrusts his daughter-in-law away, but the writing and the performance

Exile Bush

restrict our understanding of him.

The writing throughout relies on hints, requiring us to work out what is unspoken. By the end of the first scene we have still not learned what happened to the soldier exactly, but here again the words and Jane Reilly's performance give too little.

And so to the last scene, named "Exile", which suggests that this was the original play, joined by the others to make a full evening. The speaker is Sandra, dutiful lover of an Irish bomb-maker and unhinged by the long deaths required and the deaths resulting. Her ready loyalty to him is unattractive, but Corinne Harris's anguished self-control, and the moments of losing it, her sudden smile betrayed by restless hands, the intensity of her turmoil and the picture at last of a credible person revealed in depth — these bring the evening to life and keep it there. Pity about the preliminaries, though.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Anguished self-control: Corinne Harris in *Exile*

Crowded history of joy and pain

The Story of the Last of the Just New End

THE Besht Tellers are a company inspired by the founder of the Hasidic sect, that branch of Judaism with its almost pantheistic emphasis on the joy of life in all its manifestations. Their last production, *Telling Tales*, was enthusiastically received; and now they return with an ambitious dramatisation of *The Last of the Just*, the prize-winning 1959 novel by the French author André Schwarz-Bart.

The title refers to the traditional Jewish belief that the survival of the world depends on the existence of 36 just men in each generation. In particular it focuses on Ernie Levy, a Jew whose mixed guilt and sense of mission leads him to a self-willed death in Auschwitz.

The company of five actors — three men, two women — and two musicians fill in the background, beginning with the mass suicide of persecuted Jews in York in 1185, and the perpetual gift to the Levy family of a just man in each generation. A dubious blessing, the inheritance tends to include violent death among its perils, incidentally providing a swift resumé of the barbarity inflicted on Jews throughout the centuries.

The cast, in uniform black slacks and blotchy shirts, using a couple of crates and a stool, narrate like born storytellers. The musicians, Simon Katz and Nezyre Ashworth, ring changes on their basic clarinet/guitar combination with drums, harmonica and violin.

There is even a pointed reminder that two decades before the notorious (if never openly stated) "white Australia" policy, the Antipodes were opting for a gentle Australia too.

Despite touching performances from Danny Scheinmann and Sarah Cameron, the pace slackens when Ernie reaches Paris and falls in love with a Jewish girl, Golda. And there is no pretending that the show's musical conclusion, as at the end of a campfire yarn, is adequate to the story of Ernie Levy, "dead six million times", to which pity and hope offer small comfort.

The direction by Robbie

MARTIN HOYLE



Touching: Sarah Cameron and Danny Scheinmann

OPERA: Hilary Finch welcomes the return of an enchanting Mozart production

Most of the old magic is intact

The Magic Flute Coliseum

THIS *Flute* is invariably magic. It takes a lot to break the enchantment of Nicholas Hytner's production for English National Opera. This, after all, is the show where the Queen of the Night rules over a kingdom of incinerated birds and smouldering feathers; where a fatherly Sarastro leads a rustic community of New World pioneers; and where Pamina leads the way, flute borne aloft, over the fiery coals.

In John Abalos's revival, four years on, none of its witty and tender human detail is lost, and Nicholas Kraemer, making his ENO conducting debut, answers them with conscientiously nuanced orchestral playing. But, just as his musical direction is more sure in detail than in the grand design, so this revival is imaginatively, if unevenly, cast.

There are, at the moment, one or two bumps in musical pacing and co-ordination. After having turned the corners tightly enough in an over-

ture which dusted out many a dark corner, Kraemer tends to swing between a speed which, at one moment, can seem marginally too slow for a singer's comfort, and an almost Solti-like excitability of pacing between numbers which can take the stage by surprise.

These bumps are more than likely to find their own level as the run continues. Aberrations, like the unusually brisk trot at which Sarastro rushed his solemn "hallowed halls", clearly reflected more on the casting than on Kraemer. John Cornell is, as yet, a disappointingly lightweight Sarastro, lacking the greatness of heart and the ballast of voice necessary for this role in this

production. Nan Christie, too, as Queen of the Night, is over-optimistically cast: her voice has now become rather too weighty to survive in the rarefied air of the stratosphere.

Despite these shadows, there is still much to enjoy amongst the white light and designer Egyptians of Bob Crowley's sets. This time the Natural Man, Papageno, undoubtedly comes out best. Alan Opie, on the basis no doubt that it takes one to know one, plays him as a gently belligerent yet soft-hearted Cornishman, whose melancholy is soon lifted by a swig of good scumpry. The brotherhood obliged.

His counterpart, Tamino, was a little less than princely in the ardent but unskillful singing of Paul Nilon. His Pamina quakes with fear in a brave new world of unexpected violence. Gillian Webster, who has clearly thought through her role in some detail, soothes the rougher edges of their dueting with the smooth-honed melodies in which her youthful soprano luxuriates.

There is a potentially tumultuous Celtic partnership in line for this Papageno. Mary Hegarty's Papagena spins and curses her way to the nest as if there were more than a drop of Guinness in her tea urn.

Their journeys are confidently led by a sextet of ambiguous familiar spirits. These Three Ladies are as mettlesome and well-matched as any in the persons of Janice Watson, Susan Bickley and Thérèse Feighan. And Samuel Burkey, Andrew Higgs and Jack Sloan offer robust boyish guidance for the first, but surely not the last, time on this stage.



Ardent but unskillful: Paul Nilon as Tamino, with snake

DANCE: Nadine Meisner on a suitably watery start to the Dance Umbrella festival

Club together and splash out in style

WHAT more appropriate way to start the Dance Umbrella 92 than with real rain outside and make-believe rain inside? And what better way to start than with the Siobhan Davies Dance Company's latest double bill?

Davies's new piece, *Make-Make*, opens to the sight and sound of falling water. It streams down at the back, while six dancers stand rooted, their angular stances like Gauguin's primitive Polynesian figures. Their gestures suggest manual labour — a celebration of hands occupied in centuries-old ritual tasks. The piece's title apparently no longer refers (as early publicity

had suggested) to the name of an Easter Island god; but perhaps instead it relates to the action of making.

Soon, the noise of rain is mostly superseded by a taped score combining layers of instrumentation with pygmy, Celtic and Inuit songs. The piece is inspired by images of people in a confined space; the dancers become a community in the stage's enclosure. They watch, work, die, relate to each other, exchange signs like

dialogues. Perhaps they might also sometimes for Davies's mind seems to operate through associations — evoke an island people surrounded by water. The dancing occasionally looks liquid, the movement loose and fluid, the dancers arranged in an amoebic cluster.

As always, they give Davies's work heart and individuality.

Siobhan Davies Riverside Studios

Gill Clarke is darkly emphatic: Paul Douglas-James moves with compact power. He features prominently as a soloist in the second piece, *White Bird Featherless*.

Make-Make is quintessential Davies with its subtle textures, sensuous atmosphere and gravely beautiful shapes. *White Bird Featherless* (creat-

ed earlier this year, now receiving its London premiere) shows her in more austere, cerebral mood; but if you can get over your initial resistance, you will find it richly fascinating.

The choreography, brusquer and harder-edged than usual, responds to the contrasted sections of Gerald Barry's music, which are frequently accompanied by the counter-tenor of Nicholas Clapton, adding to the un-

● Tomorrow, in Weekend Times: Benedict Nightingale reviews *Radio Times* and David Sinclair on Madonna's new album, *Erotica*

MOTORING

Rough ride down memory lane

Kevin Eason takes some of the sentimentality out of our memories of lovable old cars

The two lads stood on the street corner outside the row of back-to-back houses, arms folded and grinning as though the impossible had happened and Luton Town had just won the FA Cup. Neither was more than 20 years old, raised on a diet of computer games and whizzbang, go-faster saloons from the Vauxhall plant down the road.

Yet here they were on a cold Monday morning, gawping with delight at a car with all the modern sophistication of a miner's dog. There I was, cooing the little Vauxhall along through its three-speed gearbox and steering wheel with about as much effect on the direction of the car as a tiller in a storm.

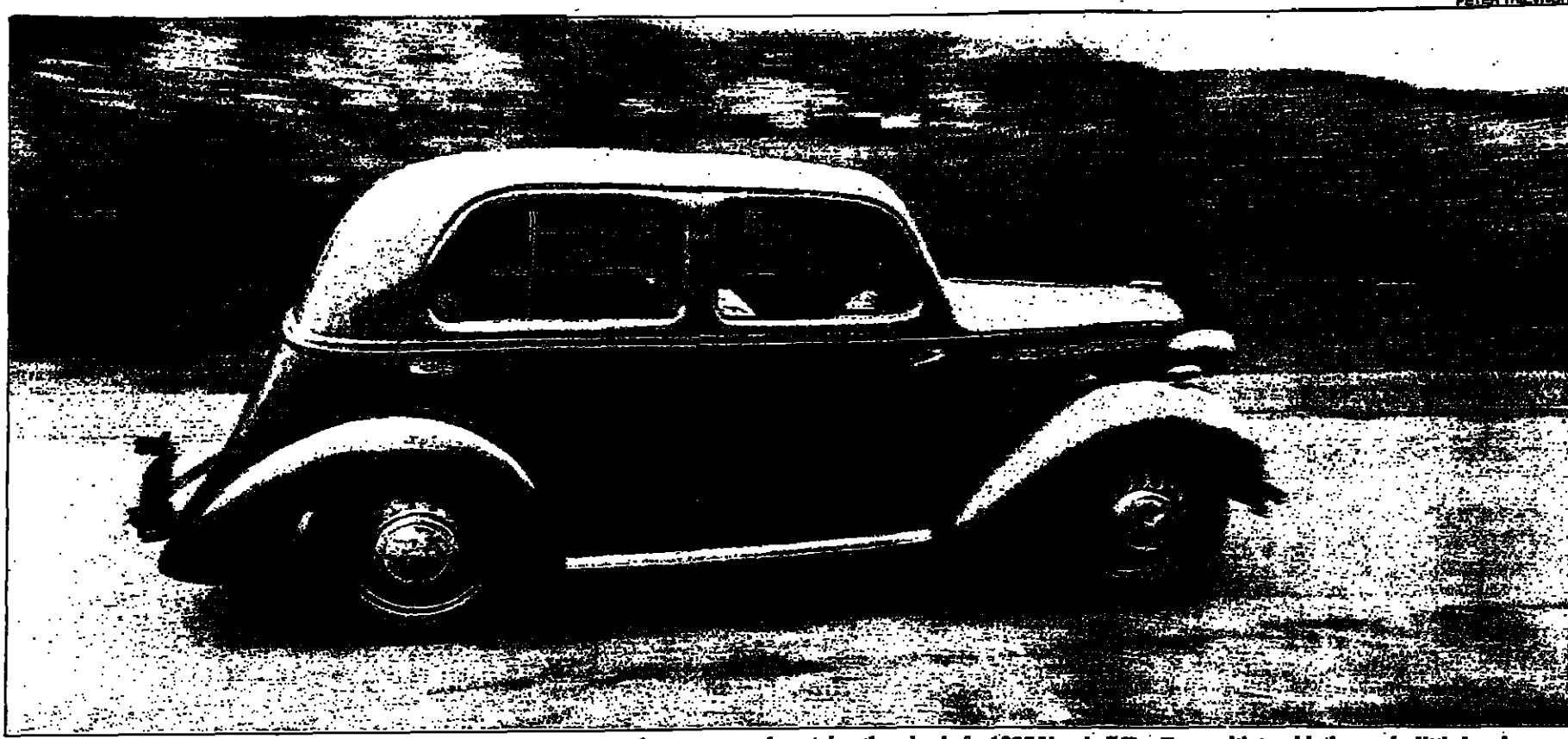
"Me dad had one of them and we've got a Viva in the garage," one lad told me. "It looks great, that."

He was right: the Vauxhall did look great, its steel-grey coat newly polished. The 10-horsepower H-type was one of the most advanced, mass-produced cars of its time when it was first made at Luton in 1937. Popularly known as the Ten Four, it offered independent front suspension for the first time, fuel economy of about 40mpg and more refinement than the usual boneshaking saloons of the time.

Vauxhall made 55,000 Ten Fours in three years, and, like so many cars, it has refused to fade away and die.

This little car — BCA 344 — was bought and restored by Vauxhall Motors in a shed deep inside the Luton plant. While modern Cavalier saloons and hatchbacks roll off the line next door at the rate of 40 an hour, the Ten Four stands with two dozen other reminders of a motoring past.

Take off the wraps and it is like watching your life flashing before your eyes. There is a little white 1964 Viva, one of the most popular cars when I was a youngster, and a



A man of today in a car of yesterday: Kevin Eason, The Times motoring correspondent, takes the wheel of a 1937 Vauxhall Ten Four, with trepidation and a little longing

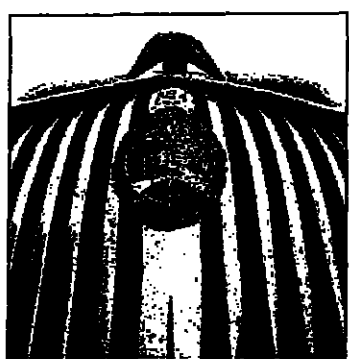
1975 FE Victor. A 1961 F-Type Victor in brown and cream is an example of one of the UK's biggest-selling exports of the 1960s.

They seemed so glamorous at the time but a good look in the cold light of a dreary Luton day reveals just how ugly and basic those cars were. The Viva has a heater marked simply "Hot" and "Cold", and the Ten Four has none at all.

An hour at the wheel of the Ten Four reminded me that although there is a wheel at every corner and an internal combustion engine under the bonnet, I would much rather be sitting in one of those comforting Cavaliers. Old cars are rickety, uncomfortable and, by modern standards, unsafe, and we still revere them with a passion beyond the bounds of good sense.

Watch the necks craning for a sight of the Ten Four in the high street and you can see why. Cars mark staging posts of people's lives as surely as every record in the collection marks a high or a low.

Our memories lie. I was only



eight years old when Catherine provided me with one of those moments that last a lifetime. Under the cobwebbed roof of our old timber shed, she gave me a big lip-smacking kiss. Catherine had just stumbled towards adolescence, I had this strange notion that maybe all girls tasted of dairy products. The same illusions twist and sweeten our memories of motor cars.

A FLOTILLA of old Vauxhalls, including the Four Ten, will be among more than 200 cars that will parade through Birmingham on Sunday morning to mark the start of the British International Motor Show. The cars range from the oldest, an 1886 Benz, to the exotic — Ayrton Senna's 1991 world championship winning Marlboro McLaren MP4/6. Also there will be the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang creation of film fame, Derek Trotter's Robin Reliant from the *Only Fools and Horses* television series and the world's most valuable car, the 1907 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost, which is worth more than £8 million. The parade leaves Birmingham's International Convention Centre at 11am and tours the city before heading down the A45 to the National Exhibition Centre, scene of the show, which opens to the public on Saturday, October 24, at 9.30 am.

The first vehicle that rolled into my life was my father's Austin Westminster, a huge lump of a car in dark green with leather seats. It seemed massive and powerful but I had forgotten how much time the Eason family spent at the back pushing it.

That car was more temperamental than the British weather, yet I still found myself gurgling with pleasure when I found it listed in a

1962 copy of *The Observer's Book of Automobiles* at the back of the family bookshelf.

There was the Austin alongside famous names I used to reel off but which will be alien to today's children — Morris, Wolseley, Riley, Sunbeam, Hillman, Singer, in their time as mixed a bunch as could take to the roads.

Next week there will be an orgy of gurgling, for in among the

world's raciest, most high-tech offerings at the British International Motor Show will be one car sporting a badge that is a thorough blast from the past. Rover is showing the RV8, the first MG two-seater sports car for 12 years since British Leyland tried to kill off the marque.

Old motorists will point and tell their children about the wonderful MGs they used to own, conveniently forgetting how they froze as the wind swept through the soft top like an Arctic blast, as well as their nights at the side of the road, kicking the tyres with frustration at another breakdown.

If cars were simply machines for travelling from A to B, they would be scrapped at the end of their working lives, melted down and forgotten. But because we live and work with them, and depend upon them, they imprint themselves indelibly on the memory — and the memory tends to edit out the bad bits. Which is why the MG will be back next week.

Out of town, on to petrol

NEW engine, sir? Just put the car on the jack and we'll be ready in a jiffy. Next week Vauxhall will unveil a concept car with engines that can be switched from electricity to petrol use. The company says the driver could choose electricity for town driving and swap for petrol power on motorways by jacking up the car and changing over. The petrol engine gives 106mpg and the electric charge up to 62 miles.

Price peg

PEUGEOT and Vauxhall have been cutting profit margins to hold down prices. Vauxhall says the message to its 600 dealers cuts out "haggling". Dealer margins, once 17 per cent, are now pegged to 10 per cent on all 1993 Cavalier, Calibra and Senator models, making price savings of up to £1,188. Vauxhall started the idea of fixed margins on its Astra series and found customers eager to buy without having to bargain. Meanwhile, Citroën, having a booming sales year, has raised prices by an average 2.36 per cent.

Jam gen

BLAUPUNKT has produced a radio that stores traffic messages broadcast through the radio data system day and night. When the driver gets behind the wheel, one press of a "TIM" button replays details of jams to be avoided. The system costs £239.99.

Fouls on the road

IF it's good enough for Gazza, it could be good enough for drivers, according to police in South Korea. They are taking lessons from the soccer field and have started waving yellow cards at traffic offenders. The system is effective during peak times, when traffic jams can be caused as police interview offending motorists on the spot.



CAR BUYERS GUIDE

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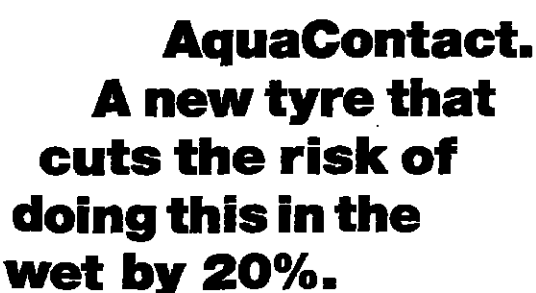
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Mercedes replies by buying British

If the Princess of Wales had braved the onslaught, she might still be driving her favourite car today. Remember the bomb-burst of publicity that followed her decision to lease a £74,000 Mercedes-Benz SL sports car as a replacement for her Jaguar XJS? The acronymy forced the business to send the Mercedes back as a gesture of support for the British car business.

Now it seems that Mercedes could have provided ammunition to fire back at the critics. The company is spending three times as much on car components in Britain this year as in 1991.

That proves the point made in these columns last month: that the business of buying British has become so complex that buyers are bamboozled by the web

of interchange between manufacturers. Hans Tauscher, the managing director of Mercedes-Benz (UK), says the company will spend £72 million here to add to another £240 million by the Daimler-Benz cars-to-aerospace group.

Daimler talked to 100 companies last year, 10 per cent of which already have orders while many more are negotiating for contracts. The companies that are benefiting include Borg & Beck, the clutch maker at Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, Bosch in Cardiff and Lucas Girling in Birmingham. There are also 1,300 workers, who now stand a better chance of keeping their jobs.

The main reasons for the switch are the cost of making components in Germany and the radical improvement in the

quality of work in the UK. British component makers, which were once famed for the parts that fell to bits, leaving thousands of motorists stranded, have followed the lead of the Japanese car makers with huge investment in quality and efficiency.

They have been rewarded by big orders from Honda, Toyota and Nissan, potentially worth £1.5 billion a year at a conservative estimate, to supply the Japanese companies' UK plants.

If the component makers can capture orders from the ultra-demanding car manufacturers of Germany, the British car business will go some way towards rebuilding its shattered remains — and maybe the Princess of Wales can have her favourite car back.

Introducing a Japanese car that performs well, despite the jokes



Mixed blessing: the Subaru SVX handles well and is a pleasure to drive but needs some attention inside

WHAT happens when you let a little boy loose with a set of crayons and tell him to draw a car? He designs the Subaru SVX.

Perhaps that is a cruel assessment of Subaru's attempt to leap into the future by producing a model that looks like a concept car but is definitely for driving on the public roads. Kevin Eason writes. I simply cannot make up my mind.

The first time I saw the SVX, I thought it looked sensational. Based on an original idea by the famous Giugiaro design studios of Italy, it must look good. Or must it?

At first sight, the SVX has a sort of cute look with its glass canopy atop a dart-shaped body. The worries start when you wind down the window to find that only the smallest portion below the black dividing line lowers. It makes paying at the parking booth a

nightmare, especially as you do not want the parking attendant to see inside the car.

Suede mingles with the naifst imitation wood covering I have seen since my mum stopped shopping at MFI. The "wood grain" was so similar to those old DIY wardrobes that I half expected the dashboard to lean to one side if I lost a few vital screws.

Subaru's designers would have done better to surrender themselves and their SVX to the merits of good old plastic. After all that, the SVX does handle itself extremely well. It is quick, competent and a pleasure to drive. There are six

cylinders under the bonnet and they operate as smoothly and as calmly as those of any car I have driven in recent times. There is an automatic gearbox, which gives remarkable acceleration at crucial overtaking speeds.

Corners are safe and sure while motorway driving is relaxed and quiet, which made a recent long journey into the West Country a pleasure — at least it would have been if my partner had not bumped his head when sticking it out of the cramped window space to ask directions.

The SVX is impressive but

expecting drivers to write a cheque for close to £30,000 for a car with a design that is almost childlike in concept is the biggest stumbling block to its success. That kind of money would buy a lot of interesting cars with glamour and sophistication.

Subaru should follow the lead of other Japanese manufacturers by employing a few Western designers to "Europeanise" its cars, taking engineering excellence into the interior design and avoiding the sort of suede-and-sticky-back-plastic gaffe that mars a potentially fine car.

Price: £27,999. Engine: aluminium, flat six-cylinder, 3.3-litre with 24 valves developing 226bhp at 5,600rpm, four-wheel-drive, anti-lock brakes and automatic gearbox standard. Performance: 0-60mph in 8.6 seconds, top speed 146mph, fuel consumption 19.3mpg in town.

Godfrey

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Intro

Freedom

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Busy bosses given a warning on finances

BRITAIN'S directors are so busy running their businesses that they are neglecting their personal finances and may be losing out on big benefits, according to the Institute of Directors (Rodney Hobson writes).

Although directors spend much of their professional lives looking at profit and loss accounts, they are often overlooking the impact of economic change on their own personal financial position.

To help directors get to grips with safeguarding their own future as well as that of their companies, the Institute and Hogg Robinson Financial Services have published a book, *Director's Guide to Personal Financial Issues*.

Peter Morgan, director general of the institute, said: "Just as directors are altering their business strategy to take account of the economic climate, so when it comes to their personal finances they must also think for the future. Moreover, directors are usually high net worth individuals and so stand to lose large sums if they don't think about personal financial planning."

Forecasting sound money and low taxation for the nineties, the guide urges directors to pay more attention to long-term plans. Directors can no longer speculate on the high capital returns now that the eighties inflation has died down. The need now is for savings and investment, the guide emphasises.

Roger Westwood, managing director at Hogg Robinson, said: "In the past, senior executives relied on their ability to generate extra

wealth to solve any personal financial crisis. The recession, however, has frustrated those values and share options as wealth creators. Directors can no longer neglect their private finances and now must make solid plans for the accumulation of new wealth."

The guide offers quick and easy-to-read information on all aspects of personal financial provision for both executive and non-executive directors. Beginning with a review of the political and economic background, the book shows how to get the best out of financial advisers, savings, personal equity plans and TESSAs, personal insurance, tax, pensions, property, the Stock Exchange and passing on wealth.



"This is what makes it all worthwhile - the wonderful feeling of relief on being paid a long overdue debt!"

Turning kids' play into work

By RODNEY HOBSON

FOUR women in Coventry formed a co-operative to buy out the Jigsaw Nursery where they were working. The nursery, which is licensed by Coventry city council, caters for children aged from two to five and is run in a detached house in the Holbrooks suburb of Coventry.

The house has an enclosed garden in which the children can romp around. The nursery was opened just over three years ago, after the derelict premises were renovated and extended.

The co-operative founders, Gail Taylor, Doreen Chiltem, Tracy Peasland and Marcella Chadwick, approached the Coventry Co-operative Development Agency for advice and training and gained cash backing from three sources.

The city council supplied a £30,000 grant for urban programme funds and West Midlands Co-operative Finance, a West Midlands Enterprise Board subsidiary that is dedicated to helping co-operatives in the region, chipped in with a £5,000 loan. A second £5,000 loan came from Industrial Common Ownership Finance that backs co-operatives around the country. Apart from buying the business, the cash provided funds to enable the women to invest in new play equipment and improvements to the nursery premises.

Miss Taylor, the officer in charge, already held the licence under the previous ownership because she had the required nursing qualification. She said: "One of the owners had to pull out for personal reasons, so it was an



Play time: Gail Taylor, left, Marcella Chadwick, Doreen Chiltem and Tracy Peasland, founders of the co-operative in Coventry, with children at the Jigsaw nursery

ideal opportunity for us. It is exciting for us that it is our own business, and working for ourselves is a major incentive.

Miss Peasland is also a nursery nurse. Miss Chadwick has a City & Guilds qualification in child care, and Miss Chiltem has years of experience of working with children. The nursery can take up to 30 children and it is open from 8am to

5.30pm throughout the year except at Christmas.

Miss Taylor said: "Some children attend full time, but we try to cater for what the parents need. They all live in the area or pass the nursery on the way to work. Some want their children to attend for just two half-days a week."

The paperwork was daunting. None of the staff had filled in

employers' pay-as-you-earn tax forms, but initially they divided the work between them and Coventry Co-operative Development Agency helped.

A free telephone and discounts on communications equipment from four leading manufacturers are being offered to start-up businesses opening an account with National Westminster Bank before November 30. National Westminster is offering a free Betacom telephone, a Mercury pager free trial for three months, a £125 discount on a Canon fax and a 20 per cent discount on a Panasonic answering machine.

ACRE, the rural communities charity, is to run a one-day seminar on November 16, at the Royal Agricultural Centre, Warwickshire, to identify business opportunities available to telecommuters and teleworkers. The registration fee is £55, including value added tax, and crèche facilities will be available. Details: Carol Burchett 0285 653477.

In spite of the recession, more than 400 companies have entered the Radio Times/Radio 4 Enterprise Awards. The trials, tribulations and triumphs of the 12 companies that have been short-listed are being broadcast on Radio 4 on a series of broadcasts at 8.30pm until November 8. All contestants have turnover of less than £2 million a year. The category one winner, for businesses that have been running for between two and five years, will receive £10,000 and the category two winner, for businesses running for less than two years, will be awarded £5,000.

EDITOR DEREK HARRIS

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 2. 123 Main St.
 3. Springfield, Mass.
 4. Dear Sir:
 5. I have your letter of the 15th inst.
 6. and am glad to hear from you.
 7. I am sorry that I cannot
 8. reply more fully at present.
 9. I am, however, very
 10. truly yours,
 11. J. H. Smith
 12. Enclosure
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 14. J. H. Smith
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 222. Enclosure
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 224. J. H. Smith
 225. 123 Main St.

Taylor's vehicle needs running repairs

There are moments when you have to admire Graham Taylor's optimism and blind faith. Surveying the scene the morning after the night before — a home draw, thanks to a deflected goal, against a second division nation playing with a single forward — Taylor's conclusion was that what England needed was "a little bit of fine-tuning".

It was reminiscent, for those aged enough to recall the film *Genevieve*, of Kenneth Moore's assertion that, of course, his vintage car was going to reach Brighton in the annual rally, never mind its bronchial wheezing. The state of England's team gives me, even with best of goodwill, less optimism than it seemingly instils in the manager.

Sir Alf Ramsey promised to win the World Cup, a vow at the time that was easier to believe than it is now that England will reach the 1994 finals in the United States. With the players available, few would envy Taylor's responsibility, his problem to my mind being illuminated rather than diminished by the performance against Norway.

Where lies the truth? England did not earn a point on Wednesday night, so much as lose one. The manager is pleased, he insists, that they attacked. Heaven help us, so they should against opponents who never expected better than a draw and were happy to let England have the ball.

It is a reflection of the decline of recent years that Taylor, and indeed many of my colleagues, are so conditioned to ordinary performance that the recent hint of style encourages a fit of straw-chucking. So, there was Gascoigne... and who else?

When you come to analyse the contribution of each individual, then only Shearer, at times holding the line intelligently up front, plus Platt and, possibly, Batty emerged enhanced. The one card remaining strongly in En-



DAVID MILLER
Chief Sports Correspondent

gland's favour, I would say, is that the level of international football elsewhere — witness Holland, beaten by Norway and initially two down on Wednesday night against Poland — gives any team a chance if they can hit a consistent streak.

Maybe I could be accused of being Job's comforters, but if a tight marker had been put on Shearer, Platt and Gascoigne, as would be the case with Italy — remember, Norway play zonal marking — England would have looked even less like scoring than they did now.

Wright, Ince, Adams (in his distribution) and both full backs often looked out of their depth. And against Norway, the manager argues that Wright needs psychological help in adjusting to interna-

GROUP TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	4	3	1	0	15	7	7
Poland	2	1	0	3	2	3	2
England	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Holland	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Turkey	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
San Marino	2	0	0	2	0	12	0

RESULTS: Norway 10, San Marino 0; Norway 2, Holland 1; Poland 1, Turkey 0; San Marino 0, Norway 2; England 1, Norway 1; Holland 2, Poland 2.

FIXTURES: Oct 28: Turkey v San Marino; Nov 10: England v Turkey; Dec 16: Turkey v Holland; 1993: Feb 17: England v San Marino; Feb 24: Holland v Turkey; Mar 10: San Marino v Turkey; Mar 24: Holland v San Marino; Mar 31: Turkey v England; Apr 28: England v Norway; Sept 8: England v Poland; Sept 22: San Marino v Holland; Norway v Poland; Oct 12: Holland v England; Poland v Norway; Oct 27: Turkey v Poland; Nov 10: Turkey v England; Nov 17: Poland v Holland.

tional duty, yet possessing the necessary temperamental presence is the name of the game. Kevin Keegan, for instance, though not technically brilliant, made his mark by sheer willpower.

The undoubted joy of the match, and source of the limited euphoria, was the sight of an England player who was master of the ball almost every time it reached him. Yet Gascoigne, by the standard of great players, had no more than a reasonable match; and if the rest of the team is not moving off the ball to exploit his talent, even Gascoigne cannot pick the lock.

Taylor, though, in his earnest, well-intentioned way, tending to talk excessively, wants to build "his" team. This was one version of it, with deficiencies which obviously he cannot name. He did name five important, absent alternatives: three defenders, Jones, Parker and Keown, and two forwards, Hirst and Barnes.

If this is hoped to be a serious formation — and he indicated it is — then it must be accepted that Barnes cannot be an addition to Gascoigne, only the alternative. Any of the others could certainly strengthen the team; and so, probably, might Dorogi in place of Pearce.

Such cause as there is for optimism is that Taylor may have settled on a workable system, a vehicle that can accommodate, and maximise, Gascoigne's skills. The objective now must be to preserve the framework while strengthening one or two of the pieces. Qualifying for the finals is anything but sudden.



Reflective: Taylor offers his views yesterday on England's draw with Norway

Italy will provide stern next test in increasingly tough World Cup qualifying group

Charlton's methods praised by Danish

By CURVE WHITE

WHILE Graham Taylor deliberates over which is the best way forward for his troubled England team, there is little doubt in the mind of a man who has triumphed over Europe that the English could do worse than take a leaf out of the Republic of Ireland's book — source G. Taylor, Watford, 1977-87.

With a performance that bore all the traditional British traits of spirit, courage and, not least, a no-nonsense approach, Ireland achieved a draw against Denmark, the European champions, in Copenhagen on Wednesday which placed them in a better position than any of the home countries to qualify for the World Cup finals in the United States in 1994.

It was the kind of display which would have warmed the cockles of Taylor's heart and that of thousands of other Englishmen and left John Jensen, the Danish and Arsenal midfielder player, wondering why on earth England do not play the same way.

"I like the way Ireland play," he said. "It's very British and that's why they've had so much success. England play more of a Continental style, they don't play like English clubs — high balls, pressing all the time. That's very hard to play against."

"If the England team played the way Ireland does it may have a better chance of

GROUP THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ireland	4	3	1	0	15	7	7
Denmark	2	1	0	3	2	3	2
Spain	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Poland	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Italy	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Switzerland	2	0	0	2	0	12	0

RESULTS: Ireland 10, Spain 0; Ireland 2, Denmark 1; Poland 1, Italy 0; Spain 0, Ireland 2; Switzerland 0, Ireland 2.

FIXTURES: Oct 28: Ireland v Spain; Nov 10: Ireland v Denmark; Dec 16: Ireland v Poland; 1993: Feb 17: Ireland v Switzerland; Feb 24: Spain v Ireland; Mar 10: Ireland v Poland; Mar 24: Spain v Ireland; Mar 31: Ireland v Denmark; Apr 28: Denmark v Ireland; Sept 8: Ireland v Poland; Sept 22: Spain v Ireland; Norway v Poland; Oct 12: Holland v England; Poland v Norway; Oct 27: Turkey v Poland; Nov 10: Turkey v England; Nov 17: Poland v Holland.

qualifying for the World Cup finals."

It was when Taylor's Watford handed out a thrashing to a Sheffield Wednesday team managed by Charlton more than a decade ago that the future Ireland manager had cause to reconsider his tactical thinking. It is ironic, therefore, that there should be suggestions that Taylor should now follow Charlton's lead.

If Ireland can achieve a similar result to Wednesday's when they met Spain next month in Seville it will leave Charlton's team in an enviable position in group three.

Wright offers Irish some grounds for optimism

By IAN ROSS

ALTHOUGH he has witnessed many false dawns in recent years, Billy Bingham remains optimistic about Northern Ireland's immediate future at international level.

A commendable draw against the World Cup qualifying group three favourites, Spain, in Belfast on Wednesday night re-emphasised just how scarce are the resources available to Bingham, the Irish manager, but it also extended his team's unbeaten sequence in the qualifiers to three matches.

If nothing else, Bingham believes that Wednesday's game finally signalled the end of his search for a goalkeeper reliable enough to be deemed a worthy successor to Pat Jennings. Tony Wright, who has made a memorable

contribution to Newcastle United's imperious start to the new season, was arguably, the outstanding individual in a disappointing game.

"I can pay Tommy no higher compliment than to say that I believe he is definitely the right man to succeed Jennings," Bingham said. "Twelve months ago, he was down on his luck and on the verge of packing in football altogether. Now, he is a player transformed."

Javier Clemente, the Spanish coach, said it was only Wright's athletic brilliance which prevented his side from an easy victory.

"We should have won and we would have won but for his goalkeeper's fine saves," he said. "I am happy with my team's performance."

Scotland must improve form dramatically

By RODDY FORSYTH

ANDY Roxburgh, the Scotland coach, was yesterday trying to put a brave face on his country's prospects of qualifying for the World Cup finals after their colourless performance in a 0-0 draw against Portugal before a disappointing crowd of 22,583 at Ibrox on Wednesday night.

Roxburgh said: "We were frustrated by numerous withdrawals from our squad before the game and with Kevin Gallacher's injury in the first half there was more frustration."

"We faced a wall of defenders and we failed to produce the kind of quality you need to break down that kind of high level defence. Our use of the ball wasn't effective or quick enough to do damage before they got their forces massed so although we got a point we were most upset by the way things went."

When it was suggested that the Portuguese might have even greater grounds for exasperation given that future carved two outstanding chances which should have given his side victory close to the end, Roxburgh conceded the point but added: "They would have been most upset had they lost but if we had lost I think it would have been unjust because the match statistics suggest the two sides were evenly balanced."

"However, that's now in the past and we must turn our attention to the visit of Italy next month. That will be a vital game and we are entitled

to hope that we should have a reasonably full and fit squad at our disposal."

Whether or not Scotland can prosper even if every first choice player is available to Roxburgh is nevertheless a relevant question in the light of two anaemic performances in the campaign to date. If Durie, of Tottenham, is fit he will almost certainly resume his partnership with McCoist but neither is a prolific scorer at this level.

McCoist will never duplicate his club scoring feats at international level for the obvious reason that Scotland cannot dominate opponents as Rangers so frequently do. With their front-line firepower so frail, the Scots require to get far more from their midfield than was forthcoming on Wednesday and here there

GROUP ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	4	3	1	0	15	7	7
Italy	2	1	0	3	2	3	2
Portugal	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Scotland	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Spain	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Ireland	1	0	0	1	1	0	0

RESULTS: Scotland 0, Switzerland 0; Scotland 0, Portugal 0; Italy 2, Switzerland 0.

FIXTURES: Oct 28: Malta v Estonia; Nov 10: Scotland v Italy; Switzerland v Malta; Dec 16: Malta v Italy; Jan 26: Malta v Portugal; Feb 17: Scotland v Malta; Feb 24: Portugal v Italy; Mar 24: Italy v Malta; Mar 31: Scotland v Portugal; Apr 14: Italy v Estonia; Apr 28: Scotland v Switzerland; May 1: Switzerland v Scotland; Jun 2: Scotland v Spain; Jun 12: Portugal v Malta; May 19: Estonia v Portugal; Sept 8: Scotland v Switzerland; Sept 22: Estonia v Italy; Oct 12: Portugal v Switzerland; Italy v Scotland; Nov 10: Portugal v Estonia; Nov 17: Italy v Portugal; Malta v Scotland; Switzerland v Estonia.

St Albans maintain fine cup run

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

ST ALBANS City reached the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup for the first time for 12 years when they beat fellow Diadora League premier division club, Stevenage Borough, 2-1 in a replay before 1,781 people at Clarence Park on Tuesday. A crowd of 1,561 had seen an exciting 3-3 draw at Stevenage on Saturday. They now meet Telford United at Bucks Road.

Under John Mitchell, who doubles as vice-chairman and manager, St Albans have been busy in the transfer-market, with the club's finances boosted by a £50,000 payment as a 15 per cent share of their former player, Dean Austin's

transfer from Southend United to Tottenham Hotspur. Mitchell, himself, left St Albans as an 18-year-old to start his professional career at Fulham for £500.

Injuries to Paul Price, 38, the former Wales and Tottenham Hotspur defender, and Jimmy King, a winger, have been both in fine form, have a cast shadows on a strong start to the season that has taken St Albans to third place in the Diadora League behind Enfield and Chesham United, who meet tomorrow at Southbury Road.

Kettering Town's future was secured for three months when they were granted an administration order on

can be no justifications on the grounds of a weakened selection.

McAllister, McCall and McStay are the preferred men in their positions and Collins was brought in on the basis of his recent club form. The combination simply failed to ignite and it was noticeable that Scotland's best spell of the match occurred in the final 20 minutes after Collins had been replaced by Durrant, who must surely start the match against Italy.

If there is real hope for Scotland, it probably lies in the uncertain form which is already evident in group one. Italy were lucky to salvage a draw against Switzerland in Cagliari after being 2-0 down with eight minutes to play. The Italians, the group favourites, were thus damaged on their first outing while long-standing doubts were revived about the Swiss ability to finish a job.

Scotland's principal quality in the past five years or so has been tenacity and they will have to rely upon it if they are to squeeze through the middle of the dogfight that now looks likely to develop in a tough and unpredictable qualifying group.

David Speedie, the former Scotland international, who has been put on the transfer-list by Southampton, will learn today whether he will be allowed to train with his former club, Coventry City. Speedie is valued at about £400,000.

Waddell obituary, page 19

FROM KEITH PIKE
IN LIMASSOL

THE batting qualities which earned Wales a 1-0 victory over Cyprus here on Wednesday can carry them all the way through to the World Cup finals in the United States, Terry Yorath, the manager, believes.

His players lost up to 6lb and were badly dehydrated after overcoming both the strength-sapping heat and a surprisingly skilful and resilient Cyprus side. "With ten minutes to go some of them were on their knees," Yorath said. "It was only guts that got us through."

His delight at earning the two points that moved Wales up to third place in group four was heightened by the knowledge that Cyprus played well enough to suggest they could cause even bigger problems for the more fancied teams in the group, Belgium, Romania and Czechoslovakia. "Those teams are good on their own grounds but we will have to see if they can do it away from home like us," he said. "If they don't approach it as professionally as we did they will come unstuck."

It is Belgium to whom Yorath will turn his attention next. The group leaders have maximum points from their four games after a 1-0 win over Romania on Wednesday, and Wales will take them on in Brussels on November 18.

Yorath views that game as Wales's most difficult test so far, but is optimistic. Wales took three points off Belgium in the qualifying tournament for the 1992 European championship, and a draw in Brussels would put his team in a strong position.

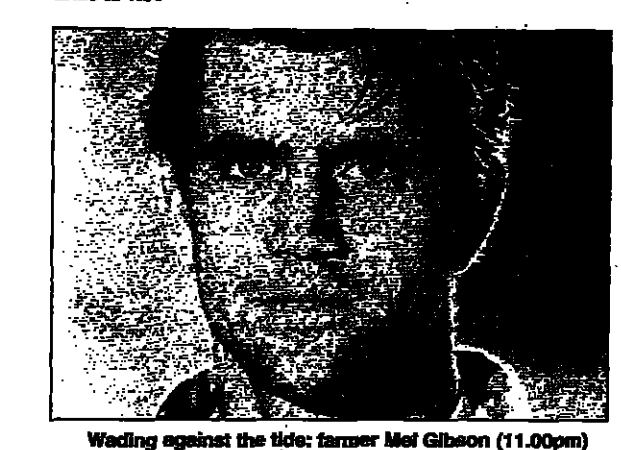
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	4	4	0	0	12	5	8
Wales	3	2	0	1	5	4	4
Czechoslovakia	2	1	0	1	5	2	2
Cyprus	2	0	0	2	2	5	0
Romania	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

RESULTS: Belgium 1, Cyprus 0; Romania 7, Cyprus 0; Romania 6, Wales 1; Cyprus 2, Czechoslovakia 1; Belgium 2, Wales 0; Cyprus 0, Czechoslovakia 4; Cyprus 0, Cyprus 0; Wales 1, Belgium 1; Romania 0, Cyprus 0.

FIXTURES: Nov 18: Romania v Czechoslovakia; Nov 18: Wales v Belgium; Nov 22: Cyprus v Romania; Feb 14: Cyprus v Belgium; Mar 24: Cyprus v Czechoslovakia; Mar 27: Belgium v Wales; Apr 14: Romania v Cyprus; Apr 28: Cyprus v France; May 22: Belgium v France; Jun 2: Czechoslovakia v Romania; Jun 9: France v Wales; Jun 16: France v Wales; Jun 23: France v Wales; Jun 30: France v Wales; Jul 7: France v Wales; Jul 14: France v Wales; Jul 21: France v Wales; Jul 28: France v Wales; Aug 4: France v Wales; Aug 11: France v Wales; Aug 18: France v Wales; Aug 25: France v Wales; Sep 1: France v Wales; Sep 8: France v Wales; Sep 15: France v Wales; Sep 22: France v Wales; Sep 29: France v Wales; Oct 6: France v Wales; Oct 13: France v Wales; Oct 20: France v Wales; Oct 27: France v Wales; Nov 3: France v Wales; Nov 10: France v Wales; Nov 17: France v Wales; Nov 24: France v Wales; Dec 1: France v Wales; Dec 8: France v Wales; Dec 15: France v Wales; Dec 22: France v Wales; Dec 29: France v Wales; 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BBC1

6.00 **Celebs** (58158) 8.30 **Breakfast News** (27061603)
9.05 **Kilroy** Robert Kilroy-Silk presents his topical studio discussion (6181332) 9.45 **The Ross King Show** Quiz game (6128969)
10.00 **News** regional news and weather (8494531) 10.05 **Playdays** For the very young (s) (7473871)
10.30 **Good Morning** ... with Anne and Nick Magazine programme presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (s) (7738352)
12.15 **Pebble Mill** with guest Shakin Stevens (s) (5055507) 12.55 **Regional News and weather** (53780332)
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hutton (Celebs) (82644) 1.30 **Neighbours** (Celebs) (s) (50977719) 1.50 **El Dorado** (r) (Celebs) (s) (53325871)
2.20 **Going for Gold** General knowledge quiz game with European contestants, presented by Henry Kelly (s) (13944679) 2.45 **The Flying Doctors** A new medical series the team at Coopers Crossing (5252691)
3.30 **Cartoon Time** Barney Bear double bill (5763603) 3.45 **Bump** (r) (2655668) 3.50 **Christopher Crocodile** The zany reptile's adventures (2732051) 4.00 **The Little Green Planet Show** (s) (76856194) 4.10 **Chippendale's Go to the Movies** (s) (1118332) 4.35 **Record Breakers** With Roy Castle, Cheryl Baker and Ron Reagan Jr. (Celebs) (s) (7493245)
5.00 **Newsround** (524852) 5.10 **Byker Grove** Children's drama series set in a North-East youth centre (Celebs) (5900087)
5.35 **Neighbours** (r) (Celebs) (s) (278983) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Celebs) (Weather) (635)
6.30 **Regional News Magazines** (887) Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 **El Dorado** (Celebs) (s) (5093)
7.30 **Don't Wait Up** Gertie sitcom starring Nigel Havers and Tony Britton as father and son doctors, the local looking forward to Angela's return (r) (Celebs) (s) (871) Northern Ireland: Portcarron
8.00 **Challenge Annika** The hyperactive Annika has to launch a Christmas card competition, judge the thousands of entries, print 25,000 cards overnight and run a valedictory old school building 8.25-7.40 into the new Leeds Metroparc (r) (7177)
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. (Celebs) Regional news and weather (7852)
9.30 **Between the Lines** Tough drama series about internal investigations in the police force. This week's hot potato for the press, phantoms in the police force. This week's hot potato for the press, phantoms in the police force. This week's hot potato for the press, phantoms in the police force.
10.20 **Terry Wogan's Friday Night** End-of-the-week conversation (s) (739425) Northern Ireland: Anderson on the Box
11.00 **Film: The River** (1964) Mel Gibson and Sissy Spacek play a farmer and his wife who live their lives of life threatened by Tennessee's Holston River and a local business tycoon (Scott Glenn). An intelligent and thoughtful film, capably directed by Mark Rydell. (Celebs) (75974) Northern Ireland: 11.05 **Terry Wogan's Friday Night** 11.45-1.25 **Film: Crimes of the Heart** Wales 11.00 Live at Brecon 11.40-1.40 **Film: The River** 11.00 **Weather** (3555458). Ends at 1.05

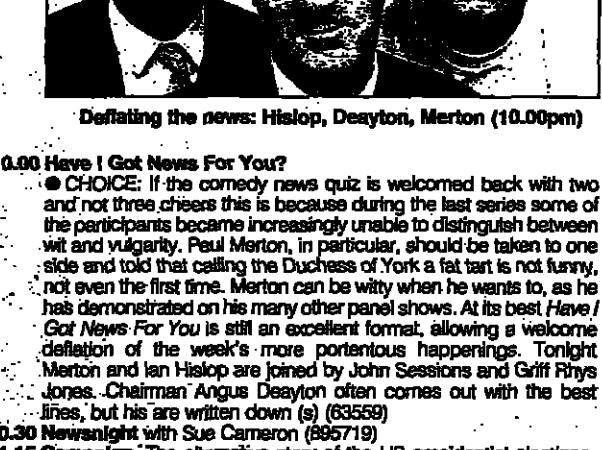


Wedding against the tide: farmer Mel Gibson (11.00pm)

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BBC2

8.00 **Breakfast News** (422061)
8.15 **Press and Preview** Previewed. A visit to the Netherlands State Museum Kröller-Müller which houses works by Van Gogh, Mondrian and Picasso (r) (4147784) 8.30 **A Summer Journey: The Kennet and Avon Canal** Angela Rippon completes her journey (r) (23784) 9.00 **Daytime On Two** Educational programme (5343351)
9.00 **News and weather** (51621500) 2.05 **Words and Pictures** (s) (8203719)
2.15 **Sport on Friday** Golf from St Andrews; Football: the World Cup qualifying matches; and Rugby Union: a preview of tomorrow's match at Wembley between England and Canada. News (Celebs) and weather at 3.00 and 3.50 (4848577)
3.30 **Top Gear** Includes a road test on the new coupé Rover 800, and a look at a racing series for the Volkswagen Beetle (r) (s) (1264) 4.00 **Stingray** 1960s puppet series. (Celebs) (437852)
4.25 **The Man from Uncle** Robert Vaughn and David McCallum in the 1960s spoof spy (r) (Celebs) (6352)
4.55 **Sounds of the Sixties** Black-and-white archive film of rock, pop and R'n'B stars from the swinging sixties (r) (s) (478177)
7.45 **What the Papers Say** Jane Tyrone of *The Daily Telegraph* looks at the continuing trials of Norman Lamont, top people's pay and Madonna (737328)
8.00 **Public Eye** The Mad Cow Contagion. An investigation into BSE, mad cow disease, which may have dropped out of the headlines, but, claims Public Eye, is now worse than ever (2933)
8.30 **Rock Gardens** Sir Roy Strong looks at the influences of three German Expressionist artists on the English garden (s) (6355)
9.00 **Blackadder Goes Forth** Captain Blackadder (Rowan Atkinson) receives the orders for "Operation Insecurity", and then eats the messenger for lunch (r) (Celebs) (1822)
9.30 **Splendid Hearts**
● **CHOICE** A series highlighting casualties of war through the names on war memorials, opens in the Cambridge University Chapel of Grantchester. Among 16 local victims of the first world war the best-known is the poet Rupert Brooke, though, as villagers point out, he lived in Grantchester only briefly and died of blood poisoning, not battle wounds. As an actor gives a one-man show about Brooke, the film concentrates on lesser-known names. Frank Paisley, dead at 18, is remembered by his brother, now 88. Villagers visit the field in Passchendaele where Walter Dill was blown to pieces, trying to take a hill. The Grantchester memorial carries a Brooke quotation, "men with splendid hearts". In another tale at the post, the vicar's wife observes, sardonically, that fine words do not compensate for death and suffering. (Celebs) (59887)

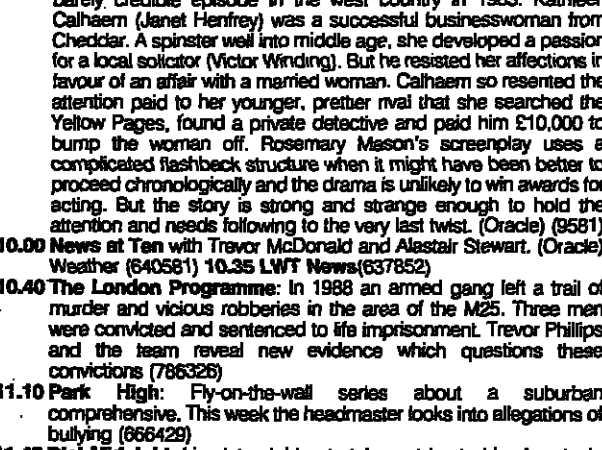


Defeating the news: Hislop, Deayton, Merton (10.00pm)

10.00 **Have I Got News For You?**
● **CHOICE** If the comedy news quiz is welcomed back with two and not three cheers this is because during the last series some of the participants became increasingly unable to distinguish between wit and vulgarity. Paul Merton, in particular, should be taken to one side and told that calling the Duchess of York a fat tart is not funny, not even the first time. Merton can be witty when he wants to, as he has demonstrated on his many other panel shows. At his best, *Have I Got News For You?* is still an excellent format, allowing a welcome deflation of the week's more portentous happenings. Tonight Merton and Ian Hislop are joined by John Sessions and Griff Rhys Jones. Chairman Angus Deayton often comes out with the best lines, but his are written down (s) (63558)
10.30 **Newsnight** with Sue Cameron (595719)
11.15 **Campaign** The alternative story of the US presidential elections. Cynthia Heimel examines the family and adultery and the battle between the candidates' wives (52555)
11.45 **Britland** Saxophonists Steve Coleman, Steve Williamson and Ornette Coleman share the studio (s) (651326)
12.15 **News** (459014)
12.20 **Film: An Empty Bed** (1989). A serious treatment of ageing and being gay in today's society. John Wyle stars as an older gay man who encounters objects, people and places that bring back memories. Directed Mark Gaspar (529235). Ends at 1.20

ITV LONDON

6.00 **TV-am** (583210)
9.25 **Keynote** The morning music game with Alistair Davall (s) (1655429) 9.55 **Thames News** (7562719)
10.00 **The Time ... The Place ...** Topical discussion series (587719)
10.25 **This Morning** Magazine programme hosted by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan (26538718)
12.10 **Rainbow** For pre-school children (r) (7336585)
12.30 **Lunchtime News** with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Rusler (Oracle) (Weather) (507719) 1.05 **Thames News** (1859992)
1.15 **Home and Away** Australian family drama (Oracle) (456597) 1.45 **A Country Practice** Medical drama set in the Australian outback (s) (494955)
2.15 **Highway to Heaven** Michael Landon plays the earthbound angel. This week, in Hawaii, he helps a dancer come to terms with a crippling accident (4947254)
3.10 **ITN News headlines** (537719) 3.15 **Thames News** headlines (5357790) 3.50 **GP** Dr Sharp has a transsexual patient wanting hormone treatment (488955)
3.50 **Scoby Doo** Cartoon (577555) 4.05 **Aster Farm** The space farming puppets learn that spacepunks never hear good things about themselves (s) (750055) 4.15 **Victor and Hugo** Animated adventures of the incompetent French crooks (s) (1038671) 4.40 **Knightmare** Four schoolboys from St Albans pit their wits against the electronic wizardry of the dungeon game (731232) 5.05 **Cartoon** Porky Pig (r) (5421719)
5.15 **LWT News** (575554)
5.45 **Early Evening** with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) (Weather) (243887) 6.30 **Home and Away** (r) (Oracle) (603)
6.30 **On the Bus** Classic comedy with Reg Varney. Stan and Jack are assigned a school party (r) (555)
7.00 **Family Fortunes** presented by Les Dennis (7871)

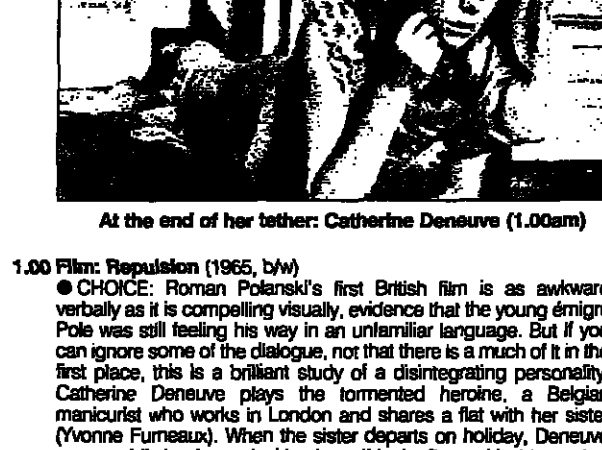


Back to work at Bettabrys: Lynne Perrie as Ivy (7.30pm)

7.30 **Coronation Street** (Oracle) (239)
8.00 **You Bet** Matthew Kelly hands out the torments to Dame Hilda Brackett, Ken Morley and Ulrika Jonsson (s) (2245)
9.00 **Crime Story: Deadly Obsession**
● **CHOICE** The series of dramatised real-life crimes moves on to a barely credible episode in the west country in 1983. Kathleen Calhoun (Janet Henfrey) was a successful businesswoman from Cheddar, an eccentric aunt who developed a passion for a local solicitor (Victor Winding). But he resented her attentions in favour of an affair with a married woman. Calhoun so resented the attention paid to her younger, prettier rival that she searched the Yellow Pages, found a private detective and paid him £10,000 to bump the woman off. Rosemary Mason's screenplay uses a complicated flashback structure when it might have been better to proceed chronologically and the drama is unlikely to win awards for acting. But the story is strong and strange enough to hold the attention and needs following to the very last twist. (Oracle) (5851)
10.00 **News at Ten** with Trevor McDonald and Alistair Stewart. (Oracle) (Weather) (540581) 10.35 **LWT News** (537852)
10.40 **The London Programme** In 1988 an armed gang laid a trail of murder and vicious robberies in the area of the M25. Three men were shot dead and the gang was eventually captured. The programme and the team reveal new evidence which questions these convictions (765326)
11.10 **Park High** Fly-on-the-wall series about a suburban comprehensive. This week the headmaster looks into allegations of bullying (866429)
11.45 **Dial Midnight** Live late-night entertainment hosted by Anastasia Cooke and Samantha Brown (771500)
1.05 **John Peel** The DJ Karlene plans to kill the judge who jailed him for the massacre of Vietnamese refugees (2439104)
2.05 **Tharg's Powerpuff** The world of heavy rock (5913494)
3.05 **Cinemacollectors** The latest film news from the United States (7652123)
3.35 **Raw Power** Rock music magazine (s) (4317475)
4.35 **BSN World 1992** (501833)
5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Phil Roman (55511). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 **Cartoons** (29158) 7.00 **The Big Breakfast** With Jane Torvill and Christopher Dean (94887)
9.00 **You Bet Your Life** Bill Cosby hosts the comedy game show from America (13072)
9.30 **Schools** (433335)
12.00 **The Stars** Beyond the Big Bang. Astronomer Heather Couper asks whether the universe can be resuscitated (r). (Teletext) (29968)
12.30 **Sesame Street** Early learning series (27429)
1.30 **The Harbs** Animated adventures of Parsley and Basil (94217413)
1.45 **The Changers** Puppet animation (9421258)
2.00 **I Love Lucy** (r). Classic American comedy with Lucille Ball, here tricked into accepting a role as a bull (1697)
2.30 **Channel 4 Racing from Newmarket** The Rockfel Stakes (2.35); the Baring International Darley Stakes (3.05); The Dewhurst Stakes (3.40); and the Tattersalls Sales Stakes (4.15) (56158)
4.30 **Fifteen to One** Quiz show (s) (632)
5.00 **Animal Squad Undercover** The RSPCA's Special Operations Unit investigates organised illegal dog fights (r). (Teletext) (4784)
6.00 **Blossom** Comedy about a teenage girl in an otherwise all-male Los Angeles household (s) (245)
6.30 **Happy Days** Nostalgic American comedy. Richie agrees to accompany his father to the Leopard Lodge meeting (Teletext) (597)
7.00 **Channel 4 News** with John Snow in Birmingham and Zohrab Badawai in London (Teletext) (Weather) (59281)
7.50 **First Reaction** Andrew Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times*, on the Madonna phenomenon (s) (155806)
8.00 **Brookside** (Teletext) (s) (7051)
8.30 **Four-Matrons** Sound. The Czech animator Jan Barta's new film uses shop window dummies discarded in a dusty warehouse. Daily life and conflict continues despite the reduced circumstances (5528)
9.00 **Garden Club** A visit to private gardens and allotments in Devon, Wiltshire, with Rebecca Fow, Roy Lancaster and Matthew Biggs (Teletext) (6790)
9.30 **Cheers** An artist wants to paint Diane's tortured soul and sees Sam (Ted Demme) as the torturer (r). (Teletext) (51055)
10.00 **Thames** Black comedy series set in Miami hospital. Annie tells her slave-driving boss to drop dead and she does. (Teletext) (s) (20697)
10.30 **Terry and Julian** Julian and Clare and Les Simpson don matching shorts and go on holiday. Last in the series (s) (55585)
11.00 **Paul Merton: The Series** A mixture of sketches and stand-up comedy. The last in the series (r) (s) (5553)
11.30 **The MTV Video Music Awards** Live appearances by Michael Jackson and Eric Clapton, special award for Guns N' Roses and performances by the Black Crowes, Bobby Brown, the Cure, Def Leppard, Pearl Jam, En Vogue, Nirvana, the Red Hot Chili Peppers and U2 (s) (33593)



At the end of her tether: Catherine Deneuve (1.00am)

1.00 **Film: Repulsion** (1965, b/w)
● **CHOICE** Roman Polanski's first film is as awkward verbally as it is compelling visually, evidence that the young émigré role was still feeling his way in an unfamiliar language. But if you can ignore some of the dialogue, not that there is a much of it in the first place, this is a brilliant study of a disintegrating personality. Catherine Deneuve plays the tormented heroine, a Belgian manicurist who works in London and shares a flat with her sister (Yvonne Furneaux). When the sister departs on holiday, Deneuve goes rapidly to pieces, locking herself in the flat and lashing out at anyone who comes near. Polanski charts the descent into madness with flamboyant skill, achieving the pitiful and the pitiful in a series of powerful, disturbing images. His use of the sound track is equally effective so that everyday occurrences such as the ring of a telephone or a door bell can strike terror (828814)
2.55 **The Twilight Zone** Once Upon a Time. In 1800 Woodrow Mulligan (Buster Keaton) steals a time machine. Thrown 72 years into the future, he must cope with modern life and try to get home (3271949). Ends at 3.20

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 2.15-3.10 **The Golden Inheritance** (489555) 3.20-3.50 **The Young Doctors** (489555) 5.10-5.40 **Moves... Moves...** (445552) 5.45-6.00 **News** (445552) 6.00-6.30 **Cartoon** (243104) 6.30-6.45 **Cartoon** (243104) 6.45-7.00 **Cartoon** (243104)

BORDER
As London except: 1.45 One to One (49488) 1.55-3.10 **The Young Doctors** (489555) 3.20-3.50 **The Young Doctors** (489555) 5.10-5.40 **Moves... Moves...** (445552) 5.45-6.00 **News** (445552) 6.00-6.30 **Cartoon** (243104) 6.30-6.45 **Cartoon** (243104) 6.45-7.00 **Cartoon** (243104)

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YORKSHIRE
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SATELLITE

SKY ONE
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FRIDAY OCTOBER 16 1992

Government inaction prompts protest

Leading owner
plans one-day
strike in racing

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A ONE-DAY strike by Britain's 8,400 racehorse owners is being planned as an unprecedented protest at the financial crisis of the sport.

The day of action is being organised by Bill Gredley, one of the leading owner-breeders, who has had classic victories this season with User Friendly, winner of three Oaks and narrowly defeated in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

Gredley, a successful businessman, who has become angered by the attitude of the government towards racing's problems, wants the owners' boycott to be staged on a Monday or Tuesday before the end of the turf flat season on November 9.

Racing's problems stem from low prize-money, which is driving some major owners abroad, and high rates of VAT, compared with Ireland and France, which threaten Britain's bloodstock industry and the 10,000 jobs within it.



Gredley: classic wins

Betting on racing generates turnover of £4,000 million a year. The government takes £320 million in betting duty; the bookmakers make a profit of £125 million; but next year racing will receive only £47 million in levy from the vast turnover, profit and tax it generates.

Around £10 million in betting turnover would be lost if an effective strike was staged on a Monday or Tuesday. That would cost the government £775,000 in betting duty, and bookmakers would lose around £250,000 profit. For a Friday or Saturday, those figures would be doubled.

Gredley, 59, yesterday won the Horserace Writers' Association owners' award for his success with User Friendly. Besides her trainer, Clive Brittain, he has horses with nine other British trainers, including Barry Hills, Martin Pipe and David Elsworth.

Speaking at Newmarket yesterday, Gredley said: "I will pick a quiet day, a Monday or Tuesday, two weeks ahead and ask all owners to request their trainer not to enter any horses on that day. I want to discover how strong owners are and this is putting a toe in the water."

"If we get a good response, then owners will understand they have some strength. Of course, we will find some who won't play the game but if I name two or three days where nobody really loses any prize-money we will find out if the owners are speaking with one voice."

"I want to work something

out this flat season. I don't want to be disruptive. It will be passive."

Gredley added: "If we have the strength not to enter horses on a particular day, we can cultivate that and we may be able to say to the government and the bookmakers that we will continue to have passive days unless we have a better deal from racing."

"Obviously, I can never see having a passive day on Derby Day, but there will be some days with big handicaps which bookmakers would not like to miss. If there is no horse racing on a chosen Monday, the betting shops will be empty. They won't go in there just for the greyhounds."

"Hopefully, it will make bookmakers more sympathetic to our cause. But I don't consider the bookmakers our enemy, the enemy is the government."

Gredley, chairman of the Unex Corporation which has a £100 million annual turnover from property, oil and gas, added: "The government has ignored the industry. It takes seven and three quarter per cent betting duty out of the industry [worth about £320 million] and that is our lifeblood. It continues to take it and little comes back to racing. There is no other industry which has such an iniquitous turnover tax."

Without a reduction in betting duty, he predicts government revenue will decline by 25 per cent in 1993 and 1994.

"You don't have to be an economics graduate to work out such a policy is counter-productive. If this is indicative of a government — and the demise of the shipbuilding, shoe and coal industries would suggest it is — it shows the limits of its policy and outlook. It has no lateral thinking."

The attitude of the big owners, notably the four Maktoum brothers from Dubai, will be all-important in any day of action. Given the Maktoums' boycott of the bloodstock sales in Newmarket, they may be sympathetic.

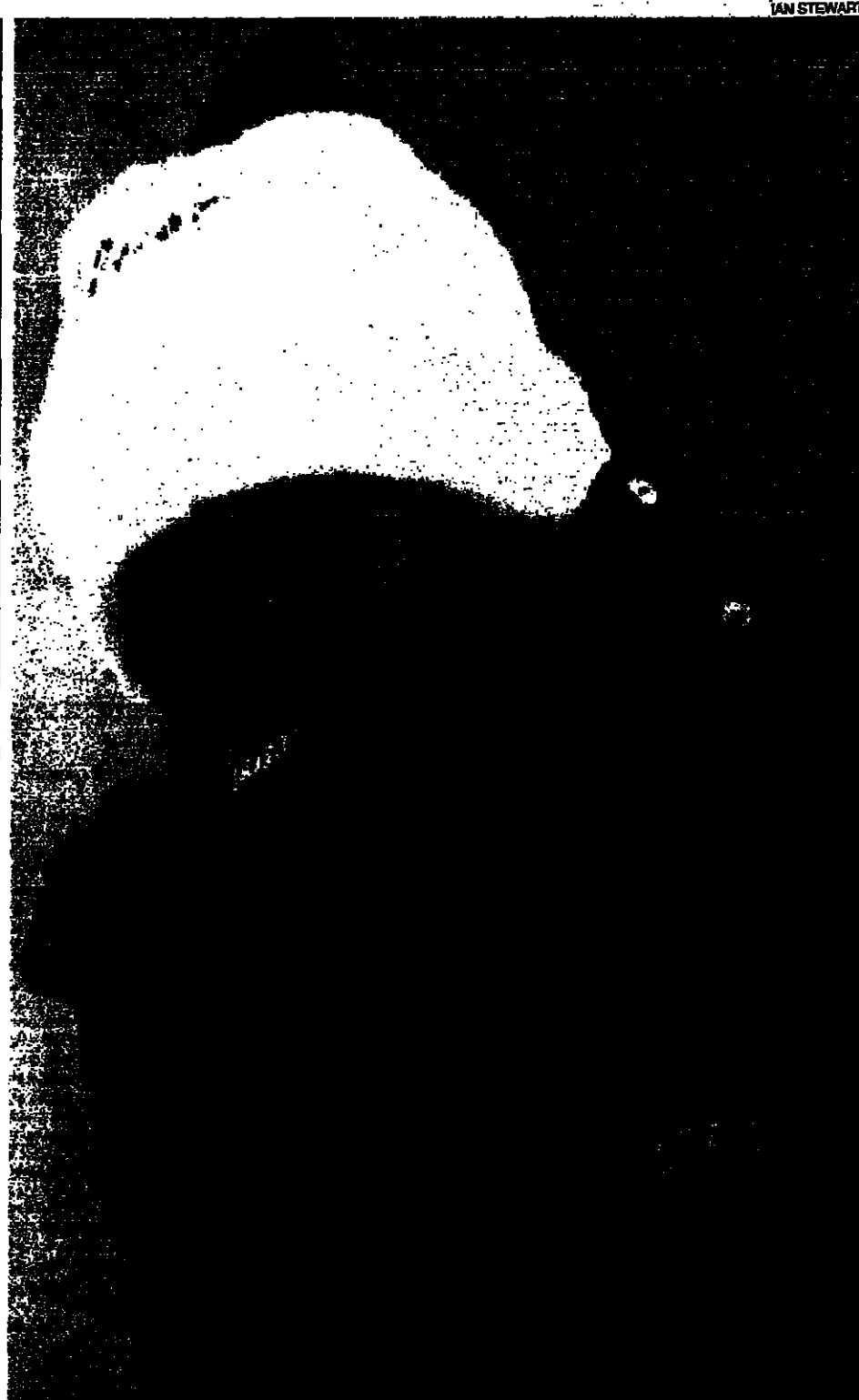
Another theory being advanced yesterday for the Maktoums' absence from the sales involves the Foreign Office, and a plan to tax Arabs for having houses of residence in this country.

Atlanta steal
Series place

Atlanta: The Atlanta Braves scored three runs in the bottom of the ninth inning on Wednesday night to turn a seeming defeat into victory and beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 3-2 and thus win a place in their second consecutive baseball World Series.

The Braves were down to their last out with the bases loaded when Francisco Cabrera, a pinch hitter, lined a single, sending in David Justice with the tying run and Sid Bream with the winner.

In the World Series, which starts tomorrow in Atlanta, the Braves will meet the Toronto Blue Jays, who became the first non-United States team to make the final when they beat the Oakland Athletics 9-2. (Reuters)



Cover-up: Wiratchant, of Thailand, takes protective measures at St Andrews yesterday

Baker-Finch weathers
worst of the elements

By MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

IAN Baker-Finch yesterday survived the most terrifying stretch of golfing terrain he has come across in his career, and helped Australia to make a winning start in the Alfred Dunhill Cup at St Andrews.

Baker-Finch, the Open champion in 1991, hit his driver no fewer than eight times in the 2,186 yards from the 3rd tee to the 7th green. He also reached for his two-iron on three occasions, and his four-iron once.

"It's the worst weather I've played in at any time in my life and it made those five holes play tougher than any I've known anywhere," he said.

An icy north wind brought with it squalls of rain, although mercifully not the snow that fell only 60 miles away. Baker-Finch, who has homes on the Sunshine Coast and Orlando, dressed for the occasion, but he was still less than prepared.

"I knew it was going to be bad," he said. "But I guess I

hit that stretch at its worst. Torsten Gledson, my opponent, threw the towel in after nine holes, and played the rest on the run."

Baker-Finch hit a driver followed by a four-iron of 155 yards into a 35mph gust to reach the 3rd, where he holed from 30 feet for one of four birdies in his round. He took driver, driver and a two-iron (160 yards) to get up at the par-four 4th and driver, driver and two-iron (173 yards), again, to conquer the 5th. He hit two drivers to get home at the 6th and a driver and a two-iron of 175 yards at the 7th.

Just what Santi Sophon, Boonchu Ruangkit and Thaworn Wiratchant, dressed more like SAS men than scratch golfers, will tell their friends back home in Thailand is best left to the imagination, but they have no reason to be embarrassed by their scores of 80, 82 and 85 respectively, even if they did lose 3-0 to South Africa.

Baker-Finch considered his 75 to be more than satisfactory in the circumstances, and Rodger Davis felt much the same about his 78, with which he beat Heinz-Peter Thuel by three shots. Greg Norman said he had never felt colder on a course, but he was delighted that Australia had won their first match in this competition since 1988. Norman combated the cold by, among other things, placing a hot-bag under his woollen hat. He came home in 33 to tie Bernhard Langer in 72.

England (group two) and Scotland (group three) began their campaigns with wins against Japan (2-1) and Canada (3-0) respectively. David Gifford, three shots up with three to play, went to extra holes against Nobunitsu Yuhara, but he won with a birdie at the 1st. Sandy Lyle and Colin Montgomerie both scored excellent 71s.

Fred Couples (70), David Love III (70) and Tom Kite (71) launched the United States' challenge with a 3-0 win against New Zealand, while Ireland also made a successful start in group one, but their 2-1 win against Korea was tarnished when Park Nam Sin was disqualified after completing his round against Christy O'Connor Jr. His crime was not to declare, at the 17th, he was playing a provisional ball. By then using his original shot, he was in breach of the rules.

Clouds over Sunrise, page 35

RESULTS FROM ST ANDREWS

RESULTS: Group 1: United States 3, New Zealand 0 (P Couples 70, D Love 70, T Kite 71, S Sophon 72, B Ruangkit 73, W Wiratchant 74, S Lyle 75, G Norman 76, G Gifford 77, D Gledson 78, R Davis 79, H-P Thuel 80, C Montgomerie 81, B Langer 82, A Yuhara 83, S Lyle 84, S Lyle 85, S Lyle 86, S Lyle 87, S Lyle 88, S Lyle 89, S Lyle 90, S Lyle 91, S Lyle 92, S Lyle 93, S Lyle 94, S Lyle 95, S Lyle 96, S Lyle 97, S Lyle 98, S Lyle 99, S Lyle 100, S Lyle 101, S Lyle 102, S Lyle 103, S Lyle 104, S Lyle 105, S Lyle 106, S Lyle 107, S Lyle 108, S Lyle 109, S Lyle 110, S Lyle 111, S Lyle 112, S Lyle 113, S Lyle 114, S Lyle 115, S Lyle 116, S Lyle 117, S Lyle 118, S Lyle 119, S Lyle 120, S Lyle 121, S Lyle 122, S Lyle 123, S Lyle 124, S Lyle 125, S Lyle 126, S Lyle 127, S Lyle 128, S Lyle 129, S Lyle 130, S Lyle 131, S Lyle 132, S Lyle 133, S Lyle 134, S Lyle 135, S Lyle 136, S Lyle 137, S Lyle 138, S Lyle 139, S Lyle 140, S Lyle 141, S Lyle 142, S Lyle 143, S Lyle 144, S Lyle 145, S Lyle 146, S Lyle 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